



Kinnock goes on offensive over defence

By Philip Webster, Chief Political Correspondent

Mr Neil Kinnock went on to the offensive last night on the critical general election issue of nuclear defence, describing Nato's nuclear strategy as "outraged and incredible" and accusing the Government of adopting policies which increased the likelihood of a nuclear confrontation.

where their policy has struck a chord with the electorate. The party has internal poll evidence suggesting that Labour's policy of using cuts in the nuclear arsenal to strengthen conventional defence is finding favour with the electorate, and that people are at least questioning, where in the past they accepted

of date and, for a variety of obvious technical reasons, incredible. However, Mr Kinnock and Mr Denis Healey, Labour's foreign affairs spokesman, have underlined that Labour will accept Nato strategy until it can change it. He reiterated that a Labour government would not ask the United States to initiate a nuclear war on its behalf by first use of nuclear weapons

The Labour leader responded to the party's recent slump in support, in which the restoration of its non-nuclear policy is accepted to have been a key factor, with an aggressive defence of Labour's stance combined with a strong recommitment to close consultations with the Americans over its implementation.

Greenwich misgivings 2 without argument, the desirability of Britain remaining a nuclear power. In a Channel 4 television interview last night Mr Norman Tebbit, Tory chairman, said that Labour had made the fatal mistake of offending its supporters on key areas such as defence. Defence, he said, was good issue for the Conservatives.

Mr Kinnock's intervention comes as politicians in all parties continue to speculate on the likelihood of a general election in the spring. Mr David Steel, the Liberal leader, said yesterday in his new year message that the election had become an end-game for the Government.

Tomorrow

That was the year...



...in which Heselbine and Chernobyl exploded, Botham and Gallieri were put out of action, Prince Andrew and Goldof were married, and the Iceland summit froze over. As 1986 fades away, our Review of the Year recalls the best and the worst of it

New Year with The Times A major series on football's future begins on Thursday in The Times, the only quality newspaper to publish on New Year's Day. To be sure of this, up-to-the-minute racecards, and full coverage of news and sport, order your copy today.

Table with 2 columns: Home News, Overseas, Appointments, Births, Deaths, Weddings, Business, Court, Crosswords, Diary, Events. Includes page numbers for each section.

PO chief criticizes 'sell-off'

By John Winder Sir Ronald Dearing, chairman of the Post Office, yesterday criticized detailed plans published by a Conservative research organization for privatization of the corporation in sections. He remained impartial on the merits or otherwise of denationalizing the whole Post Office, a question, he said, for the politicians.

Mr Robert Alton, an Australian lecturer, is the author of a 44-page study for the right-wing Centre for Political Studies, released yesterday, in which he puts forward a timetable beginning in 1987, to have off each section of the Post Office to the private sector, starting with the Girobank, which is already a separate limited company.

He recommends privatization of counter services and the complete removal of statutory monopoly on letters in 1988 and privatization of the

Manifesto on schools derided

By Mark Dowd Education Reporter Conservative-controlled local authorities and teachers were last night united in their condemnation of a radical right-wing manifesto for the reform of the state education system which, if implemented, would sound the death knell for local authority control of the service.

The document, *Whose Schools?* compiled by a team of politicians and educationists, including Baroness Cox and Professor Roger Scruton, advocates the return to selection and says local education authorities (LEAs) have "a standing ability to corrupt the minds and souls of the young".

Those words were dismissed last night by Dr David Muffitt, who is chairman of Hereford and Worcester education committee and describes himself as "high Tory" as grossly insulting to the vast number of LEAs which have conscientiously carried out their tasks over the years.

Wasps bow to Brent on apartheid

Wasps, the rugby union club whose three junior teams play on pitches owned by Brent Council, have been forced to cancel Thursday's match against Rosslyn Park because their London rivals had chosen two South African internationals who are on holiday in Britain.

Garth Wright, a scrum half, and Anton Barnard, a loose-head prop, who represented South Africa in the unofficial series with the New Zealand Cavaliers last May, were to have made guest appearances in the top rugby game in the capital on New Year's Day.

Mr Neville Compton, the fixtures secretary of Wasps, said last night that they had no option because of Brent's policy of no sporting links with South Africa, and the club's joint community project with the local council.

Wasps asked the opposing club to leave out the two South Africans, but Mr David Whittam, the secretary of Rosslyn Park, said: "We do not want to be dictated to by a council on who we should play. If we did not select the players we would be bowing to political pressure. But we bear Wasps themselves no animosity."

Pretoria imposes new restrictions on black students

From Ray Kennedy, Johannesburg The South African Government yesterday gave powers to the Director-General of the Department of Education and Training which allow him to restrict and control the movement of black pupils.

According to a notice in the *Government Gazette* signed by President P.W. Botha, any person who contravenes the orders will be liable to a fine of up to 4,000 rands (£1,280) or two years' jail.

The orders cover a wide range of activities, including the presence of pupils on school premises, as well as the types of reading material and clothing they may display.

The new measures are in addition to steps introduced in July forcing black pupils to carry identity documents and the employment of security guards at schools.

DTI inquiry widens to stockbroker

By Lawrence Lever The government investigation into suspected insider dealing by a civil servant has widened to include a small firm of stockbrokers, Whitehall sources said yesterday.

The firm carried out share deals on the basis of price sensitive information obtained by the civil servant in question, the sources said.

The civil servant, a junior employee at the Department of Trade and Industry, is understood to have relayed price-sensitive information concerning the results of monopoly investigations to her brother.

The sources said the person concerned had not been dismissed or suspended, although it was possible she had been given "gardening leave" - an informal form of suspension.

Hunt ends at country house after death crash



Mr and Mrs Ettridge (above), delighted at their daughter's return. Below, Sir Samuel Roberts, who called in the police and Samantha Ettridge.

Missing girl is unharmed as man surrenders

By Stewart Tendler and Chris Steyn

Miss Samantha Ettridge, aged 17, the Hertfordshire schoolgirl who disappeared on Christmas Eve, was reunited with her family last night as detectives questioned the man suspected of her abduction. Miss Ettridge, tired but unharmed, and Mr Peter Johan Chmiliowsky, the suspect, were found by police at a Norfolk country house after a car crash in which a baby was killed.

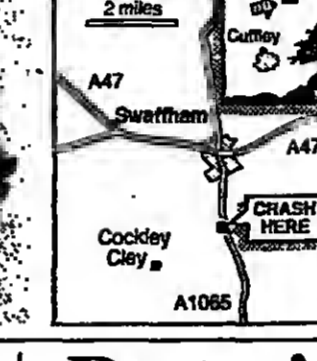
The girl and the man reached the house through dense forest after their car had collided head-on with another car shortly after dawn yesterday, killing a five-month-old girl in the other vehicle. The infant's parents were both injured in the crash.

Last night Miss Ettridge's parents left the family home under heavy police escort for a reunion with their daughter at a secret rendezvous. Police indicated that the girl was not yet ready to be reunited with the family in the full glare of publicity. The girl was found just over 12 hours after Scotland Yard launched a manhunt naming Mr Chmiliowsky as the man believed to be holding Miss Ettridge, and who was also suspected of kidnapping a girl, aged 19, from north London a few days earlier.

When Miss Ettridge telephoned her home at Chesnut Hill, while waiting for the police to arrive at the country house, she said of her ordeal that she had "just talked my way through it". Mr Chmiliowsky was also said to have spoken to her parents. He allegedly told her father: "Hello. It's Pete. I would like to apologize for all the trouble what I gave you."

Sir Samuel telephoned a local constable, PC Michael Lane, and within minutes a police car had arrived at the remote house. "My wife had made them a cup of tea but the man didn't allow time to finish it. The policeman said 'I am arresting you', handcuffed him and took him out to the police car. He didn't resist at all."

The crash took place at 8.15 yesterday morning on the A1065 near Hilborough, in Norfolk. Miss Ettridge and Mr Chmiliowsky were in a blue Talbot Solara car which crashed with a Ford Capri



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Racal buys in Vodafone

Racal Electronics is buying in the 20 per cent of its Vodafone subsidiary that it does not already own for \$160.85 million (£110 million). Vodafone is attracting 1,000 new customers a week and has more than 63,000 subscribers. It estimates it has 53 per cent of the market, beating

I was a bit of a drop-out at school...

David Bellamy's early school career was not a resounding success. But the family owned a set of Britannica and young David looked things up in it. The trouble was, the item next to the one he looked up was often just as interesting. And he couldn't resist turning the page to find out what was overleaf.

Lessons learnt voluntarily are those best remembered, which is why The New Encyclopaedia Britannica helps young minds to grow and older heads to stay young. What is true in David's case could just as well be true for your own family. The New Encyclopaedia Britannica is not only a treasure trove of remarkable, astounding and fascinating information, but also a complete home learning centre. And owning it can be as easy as buying a book a month.

Form for requesting a free booklet: Name, Address, Postcode, Tel. No., and a section for 'The New Britannica' with a small image of the book.

50 flee 'violent and permissive US' for Moscow

From Michael Binayon Washington Disillusioned with life in the United States, 50 Soviet emigrants arrived in Moscow yesterday from New York, the largest group to return to their homeland from here at one time.

Many had lived in the US for between six and eight years, but were unhappy, homesick and unable to get good jobs. They said that they were looking forward to seeing their families again, although they did not know whether they would be accepted by friends and neighbours after years in the West.

They were homesick for relatives, while others felt they did not belong in the US. "Russia for Russians, America for Americans. I want to go home to see my mother," said Vladimir Proshinsky, who lived in New York for eight years as a taxi driver and mechanic.

Alexander Cherkasets, who left a good position in a travel agency in the Soviet Union to work as a limousine driver, said he hoped he could get his old job back. "It is hard to imagine what I will do. The Soviet authorities here said we should not have any problems with the authorities there."

The group's return is the third repatriation in as many months. In October and November, Soviet officials said 17 others had gone back. The flow comes as the Kremlin appears to have begun a conciliatory policy towards dissidents and emigrants. It announced that Mr Yuri Lyubimov, the theatre director stripped of his citizenship two years ago would be welcomed back and before Christmas Mr Gorbachev personally authorized the end of Dr Andrei Sakharov's internal exile.

but what I learnt at home from Britannica more than made up for it

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NEWS SUMMARY

Police gain drug fight powers

Police and customs officers are empowered to investigate the financial dealings of suspected drug traffickers...

Cavalry crossing

Aldershot could become the first town in Britain to have a pelican crossing for horses.

Funeral missed

Dr David Owen is suffering from back trouble and will miss the funeral today of Mr David Penhaligon...

Two gunshot deaths

Ulster police were yesterday investigating the death by gunshot wounds of two men, but they believe that in each case the wounds were self-inflicted.

Disputed news

Mr John Humphrys (right), the new presenter of Radio 4's Today, has launched a vigorous personal attack on Sir Alastair Burnet...

Cold cash plea

At least 5,000 Scots die each year from illnesses related to the cold weather, according to the Scottish National Party.

Inquiry on sinking rejected

Gibraltar is responsible for any inquiry into the sinking of the Icelandic tanker Syneta, in which six Britons died...

Anti-Aids campaign delayed

The start of the national television advertising campaign warning about the danger of Aids has been delayed until at least next Tuesday.

Disease cases

Four cases of meningitis were reported in North Staffordshire over Christmas, but all are said to have responded to treatment.

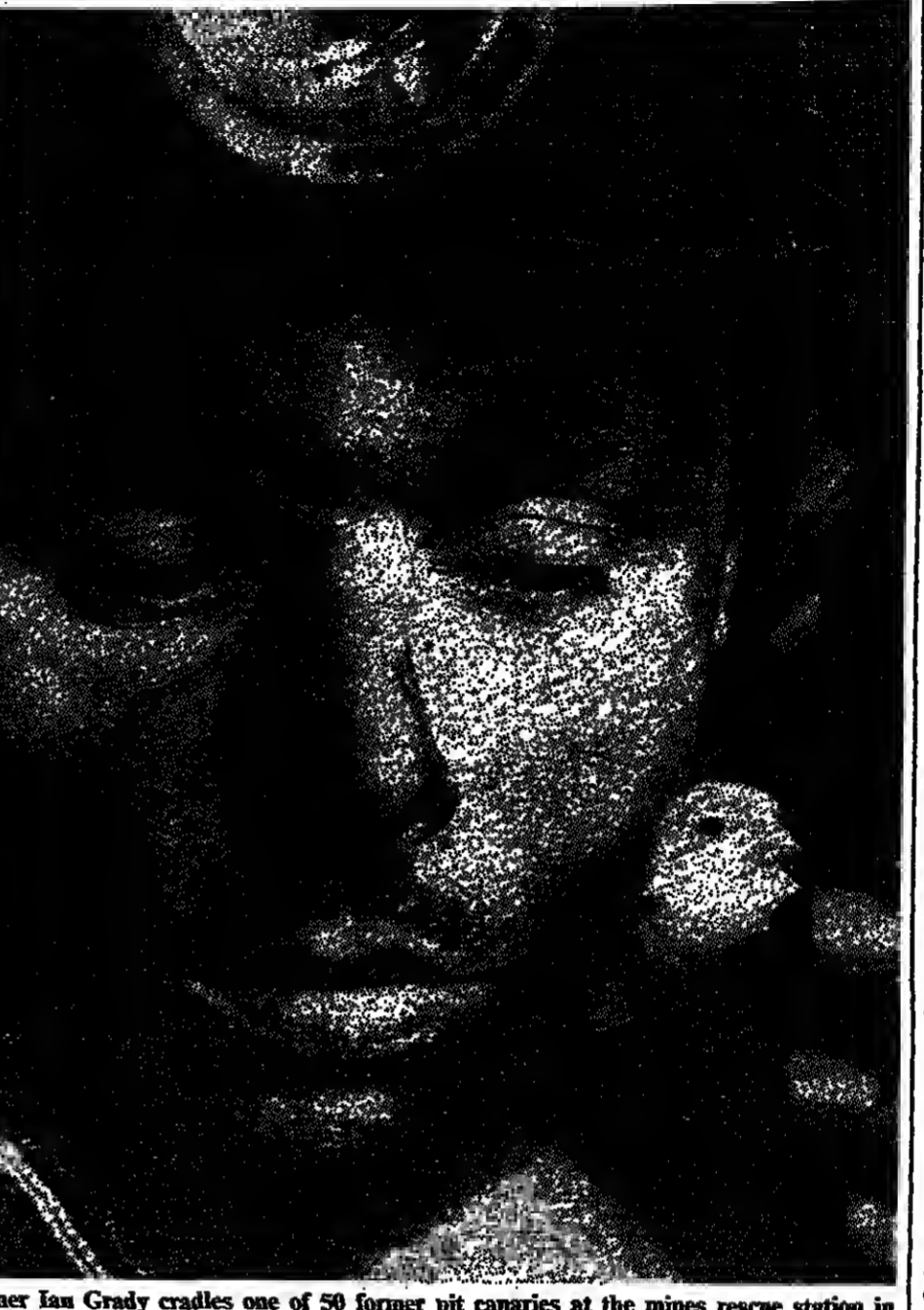
MPs' dilemma on private coal industry

A Tory-controlled select committee is likely to call for back-door privatization of the coal industry in the new year...

Independent deep-mine operators, of whom there are well over 150, face similar restrictions, and are also prohibited from employing more than 30 miners in any operation.

Prospects of jobs down for the start of new year

A leading independent survey of employment trends published today shows a slight deterioration in overall job prospects with sharp regional fluctuations...



Miner Ian Grady cradles one of 50 former pit canaries at the mines rescue station in Ilkerton, Derbyshire.

Industrial relations are best since 1964

Britain is on target to achieve its best industrial relations record since 1964, with fewer working days lost in strikes this year than at any time in the past 23 years.

Park fears advancing thickets

The rhododendron is causing a £30 million headache for officials of the Snowdonia National Park.

London is host to 25,000 pilgrims

Four important church buildings in London - St Paul's Cathedral, Westminster Abbey and Westminster Southwark Roman Catholic cathedrals - were filled last night with up to 25,000 young men and women for the start of this week's Taizé Community pilgrimage to the capital.

Greenwich voters voice their misgivings over Labour extremism

Labour stands to lose votes in the forthcoming Greenwich by-election if the local party insists on selecting an extremist candidate.

Lifeboat hitch

The lifeboat at Skegness, Lincolnshire, came ashore yesterday after spending 19 hours at sea because the tractor unit used to haul it had sunk in the mud.

Sad task for RSCPA

The annual post-Christmas slaughter of unwanted dogs got into its gruesome swing yesterday.

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Police are battling to capture soldiers

West Midlands police have started a recruiting campaign among soldiers serving with the British Army of the Rhine in West Germany.

Anderton angry at probe call

Mr James Anderton, Chief Constable of Greater Manchester, yesterday rejected calls for a public inquiry into the running of his force after "completely unfounded" reports of low morale.

London is host to 25,000 pilgrims

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Fasten better inter- BR cash ro end of chea Lapan- Five die fire set of by candle

Faster services and better stations in Inter-City shake-up

By Rodney Cowton, Transport Correspondent

Improvements in British Rail's Inter-City services, including the extension of a fully electrified service from London to Norwich from next May, are announced today.

Among the changes are the introduction of two Pullman services linking Birmingham and Sheffield with London. Day visits from many main centres will be possible using new earlier morning or later evening return trains.

The spread of trains over the day is to be improved on many routes, and extra trains are to be added to some services to ease overcrowding on Fridays.

BR cash rolled in after end of cheap first class

British Rail has agreed to re-examine the case for bringing back cheap off-peak first class return tickets, but their abolition in 1983 does not appear to have had much impact on revenues since then, according to the British Railways Board annual report for 1985-86.

It shows that first class travel accounted for 1.6 per cent of total passenger journeys, but 10.5 per cent of passenger receipts. In 1981, probably the last reasonably typical year before the abolition of first class day returns in May 1983, the figures were similar, although with first class travel accounting for just under 10 per cent of total passenger receipts.

British Rail said that first class travel contributed so much to total receipts that the number of journeys because many second class journeys were made at reduced fares, while first class journeys tended to be for longer distances and at higher fares.

The Central Transport Co-ordinating Committee, which has been pressing British Rail to bring back the off-peak first class return ticket, has warned British Rail that by failing to do so it has nearly destroyed first class travel for ordinary, non-business travellers.

However, it is understood that an internal British Rail report shows that first class travel is growing more rapidly than most other categories. A first class ticket is normally about 50 per cent dearer than a standard second class ticket, costing, for example £76 for a return journey between London and Manchester, against £50 for the standard second class return fare.

However, Britain has only five miles of line being built, another 26 miles planned and a further 17 miles being considered. The rail survey, to be published in January, shows that 79 countries see investment in railways as vital for national prosperity.

Expansion of Tube 'at risk'

By David Sapsford

Threatened industrial action by 13,000 London Underground workers could jeopardize massive government investment in the system and lead to expansion plans being scrapped, London Regional Transport said yesterday.

The result of a strike ballot among the workers - which the National Union of Railworkers is confident will result in a "yes" vote - will be announced next week.

NUR leaders claim the vote will not be used to call an immediate strike but to put pressure on LRT to review its efficiency plans which the union believes will lead to compulsory redundancies and pay cuts.

Five die in fire set off by candle

By Craig Seton

A candle used by a disabled woman because she could not reach a light switch probably started the blaze which killed a family of five in a crowded flat in Birmingham, fire investigators believe.

BBC 'cowardly' in halting Biggs film

By Jonathan Miller, Media Correspondent

The film-maker who directed *Slip-up*, the Great Train Robbery drama withdrawn from tonight's BBC schedule at the demand of a retired Scotland Yard detective, yesterday accused the corporation of cowardice, incompetence and waste.

"I'm extremely angry and the actors are furious," Mr James Cellan Jones said. He directed the £600,000 film, one of the most expensive to be produced by the BBC.

Mrs Patricia Bossum, aged 34, who was confined to a wheelchair, died with her three sons and their grandmother aged 70, when the blaze destroyed their two bedroom council flat in King's Norton, Birmingham.

He said it was now unlikely that the BBC would ever show his film about the capture of the train robber, Ronald Biggs, in Brazil by former Det Chief Supt Jack Slipper and the antics of Fleet Street journalists covering it.

The film was defamatory and misleading, Mr Slipper said. "I was amazed at the way I'd been portrayed. Besides the numerous inaccuracies throughout the film, it didn't do me justice."

Cross divorce

Lord Cross, the underwriter and former racing driver, is to end his third marriage to the former Mrs Patricia Rossier. The couple's names appear in the list of divorces to be heard in the High Court in the near future.

Babies thrive with singing mothers

A reawakening of the importance of the lullaby to the healthy development of a child, called the British Society for Pre-Natal Psychology in Medicine, at which Sir Yehudi Menuhin, an eminent French obstetrician.

Dr Clement spoke of her own research in the development of apparatus for monitoring early development of the unborn baby. She demonstrated the device for detecting the response of the baby to music and other vibrations.



Jonathan Mestel, an English chess grandmaster, seeks inspiration on the beach yesterday at Hastings, East Sussex, before the 62nd Foreign and Colonial Hastings Chess Congress at the Queen's Hotel (Photograph: Peter Trivnor).

Racehorse trainer is found dead

Mr Paul Doyle, an Irish racehorse trainer, was found dead with gunshot wounds to the head in a barn on his stables at the Curragh in Co Kildare early yesterday.

Drivers steer clear of drink

Motorists earned the praise of police in most parts of the country for their response to the Christmas "Don't Drink and Drive" campaign, but that was tempered by warnings for equal vigilance over the new year.

Road safety campaign

Police in Somerset are looking for a thief with a long straw and a penchant for 12-year-old malt whisky.

Driver's claim

Mr Carl Lawrence, aged 49, of Albert Terrace, Newcastle under Lyme, Staffordshire, a security van driver, is to claim unfair dismissal against Securicor before an industrial tribunal in Birmingham next month over the loss of his job after he handed cash to armed raiders at Trent Vale, Stoke on Trent, last July.

Thief is sucker for scotch

Their hunt follows the discovery of an empty one-and-a-half litre bottle of Glen Moray on the doormat inside an off-licence in the town of Street. When the shop was shut for Christmas the bulky bottle was standing on a display unit near the door.

Slimmers vote Duchess as the top figure

Britain's slimmers' vision of perfection is a combination of royal reality and film star fantasy, according to a survey by *Slimming Magazine* of its 1.5 million readers.

Ex-MP sues

Sir Stephen Hastings, the former Conservative MP, yesterday issued a libel writ against *The Observer* and its correspondents David Leigh and Paul Lashmar. The action is over a report of an alleged M15 plot to oust Sir Harold Wilson as Prime Minister.

Burial ruling

Mr Jack Heath, from Fenton, Stoke on Trent, Staffordshire, has been told he must wait five years before the body of his wife, Mrs Annie Heath, aged 71, who died on holiday in Spain and was buried near Seixidom last week, can be exhumed and brought to Britain.

Search fails

Police divers searched Ullswater in the Lake District yesterday for a missing Scottish solicitor, Mr Gerard Devlin, aged 30, left his home in Uddington, Leicestershire, last Tuesday, to visit two Glasgow prisons, but he did not arrive. His car was found the next day at Gowbarrow, Ullswater. The lake search is expected to resume today.

Cars blasted

Police are hunting a man with a shotgun who has been blasting cars in Newbury, Berkshire. A driver returned to his parked car yesterday to find it peppered with shot, apparently fired from a moving car. There have been similar incidents.

The Bench is very much a man's world

The bench is still predominantly a man's world, according to statistics from the Lord Chancellor's Office on judicial appointments.

Erosion chief

A full-time management officer is to be appointed to tackle severe erosion caused by thousands of hikers along the Penine Way. National Park Rangers say new techniques are needed to cope with wear and tear on the 250-mile footpath.

FORCED DISPOSAL SALE

Advertisement for a forced disposal sale of Persian and Oriental rugs and carpets. Includes details of the warehouse location, sale hours, and a list of items for sale with prices.

Portfolio Gold - Hopes of new TV realized

Two readers shared yesterday's daily Portfolio Gold prize of £4,000, each receiving £2,000. Mr R A Thompson, of North Holmwood, Dorset, Surrey, who is in his eighties, had been hoping to buy a replacement for his television set.

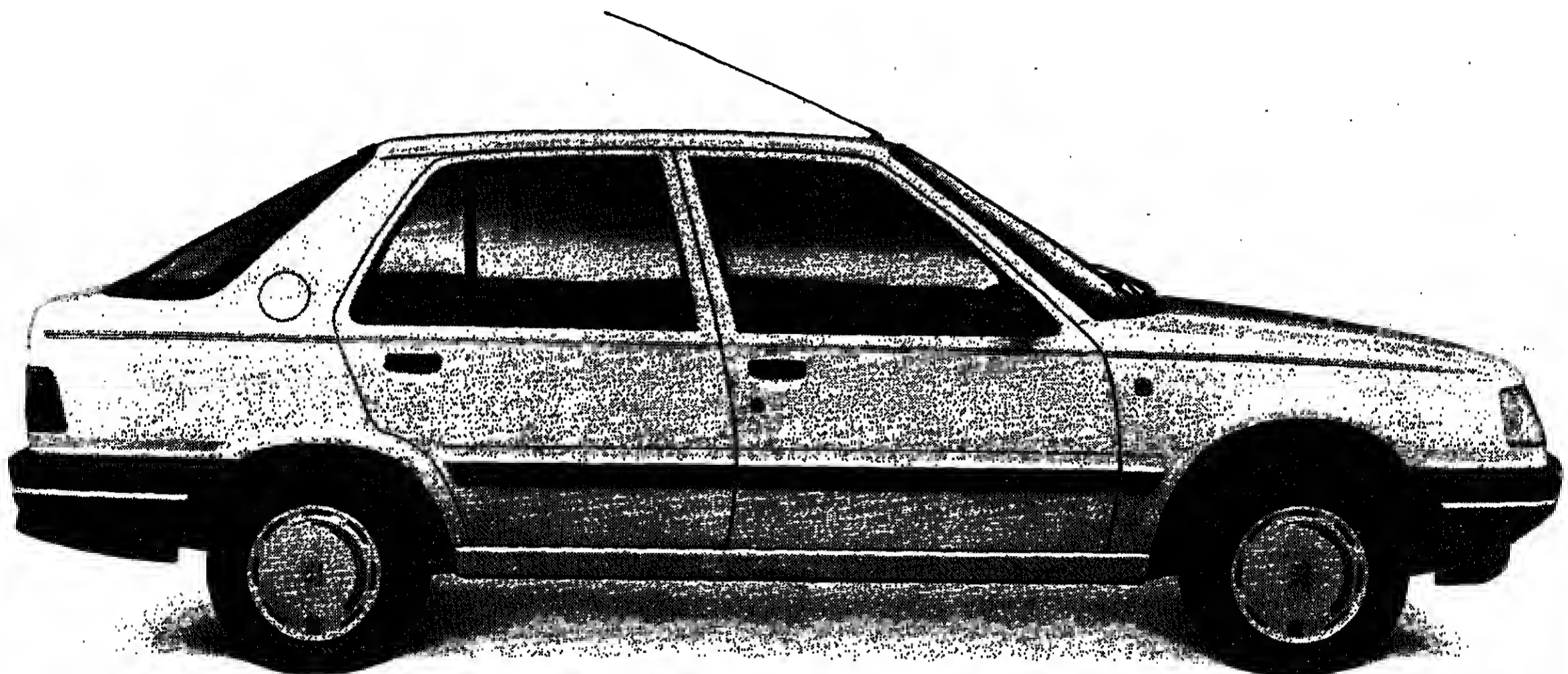


Mr Thompson share in £4,000 prize.

Slimmers vote Duchess as the top figure

Britain's slimmers' vision of perfection is a combination of royal reality and film star fantasy, according to a survey by *Slimming Magazine* of its 1.5 million readers. Nationally, the Princess of Wales is voted the most attractive woman in the public eye, with the Duchess of York second, ahead of Joan Collins, the actress.

A LIMITED EDITION PEUGEOT 309 WITH INTEREST FREE CREDIT.



NOW THAT'S STYLE.

For a limited period, the new British built Peugeot 309 Style is available with 0% APR finance over a full 12 months.

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For a start the crisp white bodywork, wheel trim, rear panel and bumper inserts will never get any black looks.

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blue mosaic with complementary piping.

As you'd expect in such a prestigious model there's a 4-speaker FM radio/cassette player, interior fuel filler release, load adjustable halogen headlights, seat belts front and rear plus childproof rear door locks.

What's more, it's got a slick five speed gearbox and an eager 1.3 engine capable of over 55.4 mpg. So get down to your local Peugeot dealer and find out more about this and other offers.

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309 STYLE: THREE TYPICAL EXAMPLES

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APR	0%	9.4%	11.9%
LIST PRICE (including estimated on road costs)	6445.00	6445.00	6445.00
DEPOSIT (MIN 30%)	1933.48	1933.48	1933.48
REPAYMENT PERIOD	12 MTHS	24 MTHS	36 MTHS
FINANCE CHARGES	NIL	428.64	812.16
MONTHLY PAYMENTS	375.96	205.84	147.88
TOTAL CREDIT PRICE	6445.00	6873.64	7257.16
CUSTOMER SAVINGS on finance charges compared to Peugeot Talbot Credit typical 21% APR.	473.76	518.88	609.12

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MANUFACTURERS' PERFORMANCE FIGURES: MPG 55.4 (5.1) AT A CONSTANT 56 MPH (90 KPH). FOR A WRITTEN FINANCE QUOTATION CONTACT: PEUGEOT TALBOT CREDIT, PO BOX 75, LONDON, WC2B 5DP. PEUGEOT TALBOT MOTOR CO. LTD (CREDIT BROKERS) PO BOX 712, BIRMINGHAM. PRICES CORRECT AT TIME OF GOING TO PRESS. FINANCE OFFER CLOSES 31 MARCH 1987. SUBJECT TO AVAILABILITY. CREDIT AVAILABILITY SUBJECT TO STATUS.

FOR A COMPREHENSIVE INFORMATION PACK ON THE 309 RANGE, TELEPHONE 0272 217205.



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Housing finance: 2

Societies aiming at urban renewal and specialized homes

It is natural that the Halifax, as the biggest, should lead the building societies into the housing market. But it has not been driven into it "by some confused notion of social duty". Mr John Spalding, director and chief executive, says.

Our investment rests on a hard core of commercial logic: to maintain and improve the condition of housing in this country, and to secure our longer-term lending markets," he said.

Already the Halifax has some 120 projects under way, mostly with housing associations, and a total of about £130 million committed to provide about 5,000 homes, largely in urban renewal schemes and providing sheltered homes for the elderly.

Support for housing initiatives and urban renewal began with a special budget in 1982 of £35 million. The allocation has grown to £300 million in 1986, representing 5 per cent of total lending.

The new subsidiary company will normally use a design and build approach, using large or medium-size builders.

In the second of two articles, Christopher Warman, Property Correspondent, describes building societies plans to move into housing and particularly into specialized developments.

Mr David Coutie, the society's housing development controller, hopes for involvement in a greater mixture of tenures than in the past, concentrating on:

● Owner occupation, which the society believes could reach saturation at 70-75 per cent (it is now about 64 per cent in England);

● The specialist market, such as homes for single people, and developments incorporating offices or showrooms in housing projects, because more people work from home;

● And ways of developing private rented housing.

The Halifax also has big regeneration projects, such as at Swansea docks.

It is involved in shared ownership schemes and is also enthusiastic about the regeneration of private rented housing.

Index-linked finance seems to be the answer, it believes, and suggests the partnership

of building societies, providing index-linked loans, and housing associations.

The Nationwide, which has already completed about 1,600 units, will aim at 2,000 a year, and perhaps more after its merger with the Anglia Building Society. "It is not our job to compete with the volume builder," it states.

"The overtones of our work are social, and we will be aiming at the elderly, disabled, first-time buyers, and those with special needs, extending the range of housing supply and widening the choice through different funding arrangements."

The Woolwich Equitable Building Society funds schemes where the purchasers are nominees who buy a leasehold interest through the local authority. The society is determined to pursue its philosophy of providing housing for people who could not otherwise afford it on the open market.



Ray Reardon in jovial mood at the table with Mr Charlie Pearce and Mrs Helen Hamlyn (Photograph: Mark Pepper).

Snooker gives the elderly a new life

Snooker and pool are well in favour among elderly residents of Ellesmere Home in Fulham, west London, after a coaching session yesterday by Ray Reardon, the former world champion.

Mr Reardon coached Mr Charlie Pearce, aged 80, one of 95 male and female residents of the residential and day care

home, after officially presenting the table as a Christmas present.

The gift was organized by the Helen Hamlyn Foundation, an organization established 12 months ago to seek creative solutions to the problems of the aged.

Mr Denis O'Hearn, the Ellesmere administrator, said

that the table had been in constant use since it was unveiled three weeks ago. Mrs Hamlyn is a frequent visitor.

While lobbying the Government to improve conditions for the elderly, the foundation has co-sponsored an exhibition of products at The Bellerbouse, Victoria and Albert Museum, South Kensington, west London, designed to help the aged remain independent.

Mr O'Hearn said that a special feature of life for Ellesmere residents was the opportunity for them to meet and work with three unemployed 17-year-olds, who are spending a year on work experience at the home.

Mystery caller says she knows murderer

An anonymous woman telephone caller has told detectives that she knows the killer of the Bradford teacher. Mr Donald Swaine.

Detectives leading the investigation said yesterday that an officer received a telephone call at the Batley police station, 10 miles from the murder scene.

The woman said she knew who was responsible for the death of Mr Swaine, aged 48, but refused to give personal details or elaborate.

Det Supt Ken Baines, who is leading the murder investigation, pleaded for the woman to get in touch again. "The officer who took the call had a feeling she was being genuine," he said.

The woman who rang the police station could be a prostitute who works in the red light district where Mr Swaine's body was found.

Mr Swaine, who worked at the Drummond Language Centre in Bradford, was walking home to Hazelhurst Road, Heaton, Bradford, on Christmas morning after a drink with colleagues from the Youth Hostels Association.

He was dragged to a back yard at Highfield Place, Bradford, where he was attacked.

Mr Swaine's widow, Brenda, aged 51, and their children, Martin, aged 15, and Helen, aged 13, were being comforted by relatives.

Fair rent panels criticized

By a Staff Reporter

A housing aid centre has alleged that a system of fixing a fair rent for private tenants seems loaded against the centre.

The criticism comes in the wake of a case of a Norwich man whose rent was first lowered by £15 a month by a fair rent officer, then increased by £70 a month by a rent assessment committee after an appeal by his landlord.

Shac, the London housing aid centre, said such cases were common and called for assessment committees to be scrapped, leaving the fair rent officer's decision to be challenged in the courts.

The fair rent system, administered by the Department of the Environment, was designed to stop unscrupulous landlords charging excessive rents.

Shac points out, however, that according to government figures for 1985, assessment committees increased rents above a rent officer's recommendation in 57 per cent of cases. A lower rent was recommended in only 16 per cent of cases.

In London, committees increased rents above an officer's recommendations in 70 per cent of cases and reduced rents in 7 per cent.

Shac said: "One criticism of these committees is that they are packed with 'property professionals' appointed from the local area and good, and they tend more towards the landlord's point of view."

The Department of the Environment dismissed the criticism and pointed out that people from different walks of life were appointed to the committees.

Dog-bite athlete reassured

Eamonn Coghlan, the international athlete who was savaged by a dog set on him by two teenagers as he was out training in Dublin, hopes to be back to training when he returns to the United States next week.

Fears that severe tissue damage caused by bites to his right calf and left thigh could put his career in jeopardy were allayed by surgeons yesterday after the athlete underwent two operations. But it will be some days before the full extent of the damage is known.

The world 5,000 metres champion and holder of the indoor mile record said he hoped to resume training for the United States indoor season. His left hand was broken when he was tried to ward off the terrier dog, which had been told "get him, get him" by the teenagers.

He had rebuked them for shouting bad language to a woman and her child.

Mr Coghlan, aged 33, was visited in hospital yesterday by his wife, Yvonne, and their two children.

Rescuer dies

Miss Gladys Gale, aged 64, who was badly burnt rescuing her collie dog from her blazing Wiltshire home last Friday, died late on Sunday. Firemen took her from her house in Codford St Mary still clutching the dog.

Blandford case

Lord Blandford, aged 31, will appear before magistrates at Thame, Oxfordshire, on January 15 accused of speeding on the Oxford ring road.

Shelbourne dispute

Elegant hotel is unusually quiet

By Richard Ford

Things are unusually quiet at the Shelbourne Hotel, "the most distinguished address in Ireland", as a strike by more than 100 workers enters its twelfth week.

Visitors arriving at the Trust House Forte hotel in Dublin are greeted by picketing staff demanding better pay. Where once the head porter, Mr James Dixon, would greet them inside the hotel's foyer, he can now be found along with other colleagues out on the street with fellow members of the Irish Transport and General Workers' Union.

Although the management has entered the festive spirit by decorating the hotel's ground floor function rooms, staff admit privately that business has been affected seriously by the dispute.

The 177-room hotel's banqueting facilities are not operating, and while the bar, dining room, and lounge remain open they are not as busy as usual for the Christmas period. Other hotels in the city report an increased number of people who used to stay at the Shelbourne coming to their premises during the past few weeks.

Staff from the hotel group in Britain, together with people recruited since the dispute started, have helped keep the Shelbourne's doors open during a strike that shows little sign of an early settlement. It is being organized by the ITGWU, which as part of its

campaign published a mock menu listing meals and their prices opposite job descriptions and basic rates of pay. It described a day at the Shelbourne, adding, "with major reservations about the wage levels", and compared the Ir£18 for slices of fresh salmon cooked in butter and served on a sauce of white wine and samphire with the Ir£13.60 earned by a waitress for an eight-hour day, and added: "She couldn't afford the meal she served."

The ITGWU says that basic earnings at the hotel, which employs 170 people, are lower than in other comparable establishments in the city and in particular with THF's other property, the International Airport Hotel. The union also complains about the distribution system of the 15 per cent service charge payable on food and room receipts claiming that the company takes 2.5 per cent to supplement the earnings of a number of employees.

THF said that it would not negotiate under duress, but added that it had implemented a 6 per cent pay award plus an extra Ir£3 a week recommended by the Labour Court in the republic. It said: "We have acted in accordance with accepted practices in dealing with disputes of this kind."

It claimed that the hotel was operating normally.

On Friday evening at 9pm, however, there were just 12 people in the bar and four in the lounge.

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T2/86

Secret inquiry clears Shamir and puts Shin Bet case to rest

From Ian Murray, Jerusalem

A secret report by the Justice Ministry has cleared Mr Yitzhak Shamir, the Israeli Prime Minister, of any responsibility for the death of two Palestinians at the hands of the Shin Bet counter intelligence agency and for the subsequent cover-up.

The scapegoat for what happened is Mr Avraham Shalom, who was forced to resign as head of Shin Bet over the affair and who, like ten other agents involved, was

ings from lawyers and political opponents of Mr Shamir.

The report is based on a three month long secret investigation by police which was ordered into the way the two Palestinians were beaten to death by Shin Bet agents after being taken off a bus they are said to have helped to hijack in April 1984.

Two official inquiries into the matter failed to reach any meaningful conclusions largely because the evidence put to them was rigged by Shin Bet lawyers. After Mr Hazak revealed what had been going on the Government agreed in July with the utmost reluctance to the police inquiry.

The 65-page report has found that Mr Shamir, although Prime Minister and so responsible for Shin Bet at the time of the killings, was personally unaware of what happened. More importantly it discounts the allegation of Mr Shalom that the killings and cover-up had been carried out "on authority and with permission so as to maintain the security of the state".

The High Court granted a defence request and postponed, until February 16, the hearing of war crimes charges against Ivan John Demjanjuk, alleged executioner of Treblinka.

The report also exonerated Mr Shimon Peres, who was Prime Minister during a rigged inquiry into the case, and Mr Moshe Arens, who was Defence Minister when the killings occurred. It concludes there is no point in prosecuting any of the pardoned agents nor the unpardoned former deputy head of Shin Bet, Mr Reuven Hazak, who knew what was happening but who

granted a Presidential pardon after admitting improper and criminal behaviour.

There has been immediate criticism of the report's find-

ings from lawyers and political opponents of Mr Shamir.

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Brother Clement Mullinger, of the Anglican Society of Sacred Mission in the tiny town of Modderpoort, in South Africa's Free State, leads worshippers in Christmas celebrations in a cave, thus perpetuating the ancient tradition of early Christians who sought to keep their worship secret from persecutors.

Happier to live in Siberia

Moscow branded Maryana as a witch

From Christopher Walker Moscow

The latest and most bizarre result of the Soviet media's new policy of glasnost (openness) has been the disclosure of the extent to which medieval superstitions and a belief in old-fashioned witchcraft are still thriving among well-educated young urban dwellers in the Soviet Union.

The finding was published in the latest edition of the popular magazine, *Rabotnitsa* (Working Woman), which investigated the disturbing case of a young woman identified only as Maryana, who was forced into self-imposed exile in Siberia after being condemned as a witch in the

Moscow suburb in which she lived.

The article has provided public confirmation of the conviction held by many leading Western observers that superstitions of all kinds remain far more deeply rooted in the Soviet character than Soviet officials have until recently been prepared to admit.

The investigation was launched after the woman, branded as a 20th century Soviet witch, appealed to the magazine's editors for help after being driven from her home only "a 40-minute train ride" from Moscow.

"It seems that a great many people believe in all sorts of incantations, fortune-telling, bewitchment and casting of spells," Maryana wrote.

"Even a high education does not hinder this belief. Is it not true that some serious discussion of this dreadful phenomenon should appear in print so that victims like myself, of such absurd tales, should find support in sensible public opinion?"

The magazine reported that the woman's troubles had begun at school when she and a friend were going out with two local boys, one of whom died suddenly of brain cancer.

Their chemistry teacher suggested that an evil spell had been cast on the dead boy and rumours began circulating that Maryana was a witch.

had been born with a congenital disease only because his birth coincided with the year Maryana arrived in the town.

"Maryana's friends and acquaintances all accepted the fact that she was indeed a witch and whenever she met them they would either lower their eyes or cross the road," the magazine said.

"It would be timely to remind the reader that this took place not in the dark middle-ages, but in our own enlightened century, which we call atomic, not to mention, civilized."

The article added that the woman became such an "object of fear and hatred" in the town that she finally left for northern Siberia, where she now lives much more happily.

Redundant labour faces socialist version of the dole

In the second article of his two-part series on Hungarian financial reforms, Roger Boyes, East Europe Correspondent, looks at their impact on employment prospects in industry.

Hungary's economy Part 2

Next year is the year when the sacred cows of Hungarian industry begin to buckle at the knees. As the Government withdraws subsidies from traditionally protected sectors - the steel and engineering industries, meat processors and coal mines, among others - so large-scale redundancies are becoming more common.

It is officially estimated that between 150,000 and 200,000 jobs will have to go between now and 1990, with workers being "redeployed." Some of the cuts that come into force this year include:

● Seven thousand railway jobs. Because the authorities reduced their subsidy to Hungarian Railways, operating profits have dropped from about 10 billion forints (£140 million) to the 1986 level of

though union leaders deny it, the system sounds suspiciously like the dole.

The unions have become an important part of the equation in Hungary - and indeed in all Soviet bloc countries preparing to introduce market-style measures. Since the banning of Solidarity in Poland one noticed a distinctive trend: Communist unions now form the fiercest resistance to reform.

This emerged not only at a recent congress of the Polish Government-sponsored unions - where the speech of union leader Mr Alfred Miodowicz sounded distinctly conservative - but also in Hungary. One of the top party leadership in Hungary, Mr Karoly Grosz, sometimes regarded as a hard-liner, has recently been emphasizing the need for income differentials.

"We are constantly required to call to account those people who are smarter, more diligent and more talented than others in order to ask them to explain their high wages," Mr Grosz said. "But it is obvious: their incomes are higher because they are smarter, more diligent and talented. Should we hit these people on the head and force them constantly to defend themselves? We will not choose this approach."

This could be regarded as a direct assault on the trade unions which have been pressing for much smaller incomes differentials. But there is no room any more for evangelists of simple socialist equality in Hungary. When the party leadership makes a rare reference to equality it refers only to the somewhat dubious "equality of opportunity."

The deeper one probes the more obvious become the parallels between what is happening in the East and the changes underway in the West. That does not necessarily mean that Hungary is smuggling capitalism into the Soviet bloc. Rather it suggests that industrialized countries in both East and West are facing difficult problems of modernization and that there are few available options.

But after four decades of sheltered living the new financial revolution in Hungary will be profoundly shocking to ordinary people, more unnerving than similar developments in the West.

Concluded

There is no room any more for evangelists of simple socialist equality in Hungary

600 million forints (just over £10 million).

● About 200 workers will be shed from the Meat Processing Company in southern Hungary and several other plants, processing mainly pork, will be announcing similar redundancies in the next few months.

● Plant closures in a Hungarian foundry near the Czech-Slovak border will lead to the dismissal of about 600 workers, and a further 1,500 will be laid off before 1990.

There is officially no unemployment under communism and all the dismissed workers will be offered new jobs. But with scores of enterprises close to bankruptcy, there are doubts about whether the Hungarian economy is elastic enough to absorb quickly those made redundant.

The new year is expected to bring a much sharper implementation of the Hungarian bankruptcy laws which permit creditors and unpaid suppliers to take defaulting companies to court. It is all part of a structural upheaval and a large number of workers in sick industries are likely to suffer.

The unions have negotiated a special "reintegration" grant for laid off workers. But

18 die in Christmas massacre

From Ahmed Fazi Dhaka

Eighteen people were killed in a Christmas Day massacre as separatist tribal guerrillas raided a border village in Bangladesh's troubled south-eastern Chittagong Hill Tracts region, the Interior Ministry disclosed yesterday.

The guerrillas came from the eastern Indian state of Tripura.

The massacre occurred two days after at least 20 people were killed when the outlawed Shanti Bahini - which has been fighting for a separate homeland for half a million Chakma and Marma tribesmen since 1976 - attacked the frontier town of Ramgarh.

Police said most of the Christmas Day victims were ethnic Bengali Muslims, resettled in the tribal village of Marishya.

Authorities said the two bloody incidents halted the repatriation of more than 10,000 tribesmen who fled to India last April as security forces stepped up an anti-insurgency drive.

Meanwhile, Bangladesh and Indian officials began talks yesterday to halt the cross-border fighting.

Punjab at standstill for protest

From Kuldip Nayar Delhi

Following a call by the All-India Sikh Students Federation for a two-day *hartal* (closure) from yesterday, the state of Punjab was practically at a standstill and even Hindus did not open shops, despite the advice of Shiv Sena, a Hindu militant body. Apart from isolated incidents of violence, the protest was peaceful.

The action, supported by militants and the Akali break-away group of Mr Prakash Singh Badal, the former Punjab Chief Minister, was called in protest at death sentences imposed on three assassins of Mrs Indira Gandhi, the late Prime Minister, and delay in the release of more than 300 Sikhs detained at Jodhpur since 1984.

Buses and trains remained idle in most parts of the state. In many cities Sikhs youths went out to the streets to shout slogans in support of Khalistan, the concept of an independent state for Sikhs.

In Amritsar district police yesterday arrested 12 extremists who were said to have been responsible for the death of a village headman.

Rebels renew attacks after Barre victory

From Our Correspondent, Nairobi

As Somalis went to the polls to give President Siad Barre a massive 99.93 per cent vote of confidence, returning him to power for another seven-year term, rebel forces of the Somali National Liberation Movement (SNLM), suddenly renewed their anti-Government attacks after a long dormant period.

According to the Ethiopian-based Radio Halgan, operated by the SNLM, they launched a major attack on an army base in northern Somalia, killing more than 100 Government troops, including their commander, Colonel Ahmed Nagaye.

The rebel broadcast said the attack was on Gumburra, nearly 20 miles from Hargeisa, which serves as the Army's battalion headquarters. The radio also denounced the latest presidential election as a fraud and pledged to

continue the struggle to topple the Somali leader, who was seriously hurt last May in a car accident.

Although he is handling his official duties in Mogadishu again, President Barre is said to be working only two hours a day, on medical advice.

The election results, supplied by the country's Electoral Commission, indicated that 4.8 million voted in polling for the sole candidate on December 23. The 99.93 per cent vote compares with a 99.91 vote he was said to have received in the 1980 election, held under similar circumstances.

A rally took place in the seaside capital on Sunday to celebrate the victory for soldier-politician, who seized power in a coup in 1969. President Barre is officially aged 67, but some believe him to be much older.

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حسابنا من الاموال

WORLD Risk of at Gerr Airport proposal Singapore Liver factory Arabs' satellite Birthdays amnesty Voyager for th

WORLD SUMMARY

Risk of new blast at German hotel

Bonn - Firemen yesterday were burning off leaking liquid gas at a Bavarian winter resort hotel amid the risk of a further explosion following a blast last Saturday that killed seven guests and injured 12 others (John England writes).

Airstrip proposal 70 killed in Sudan

Pretoria (Reuter) - South Africa yesterday confirmed reports it had plans to build an airstrip on Marion Island in the Antarctic, but ignored allegations that it was connected with nuclear missile tests.

Singapore reshuffle

Singapore (Reuter) - Mr Suppiah Dhanabalan, the Singapore Foreign Minister, was given the additional portfolio of National Development Minister in a Cabinet reshuffle announced yesterday and due to take effect from January 1.

Libyan victory Refugees to move

Paris (AP) - Press reports said yesterday that the desert outpost of Zouar at the edge of the Tibesti Mountains in northern Chad fell to the Libyan forces that had been attacking it since December 19.

Arabs' second satellite

Abu Dhabi (AFP) - The board of the Arab Organization for Space Communications and Satellites (Arabsat) began a two-day meeting here yesterday to discuss plans to launch the second generation of Arab satellites.

Birthday amnesty Shuttle payouts

Kathmandu (AP) - Some 202 prisoners had their prison terms remitted and were set free yesterday on the occasion of King Birendra's 42nd birthday, the Home Affairs Ministry announced.

Voyager couple set for the big sell

After collecting medals from President Reagan here today, Dick Rutan and Jeana Yeager, the pilots who went around the world on one tank of fuel in their experimental aircraft, Voyager, will embark on a whirlwind journey to conquer the high-flying world of marketing.



Striking French railwaymen marching in front of a stranded train yesterday during a protest demonstration at Marseille's Saint-Charles station.

French rail peace hope grows after concession

Paris - Fresh hopes for a settlement of the 12-day-old French rail strike arose yesterday when the SNCF management announced that it was ready to re-open official talks with the unions today in view of what it described as a significant improvement in train services.

Iran and US closer to deal

Washington - American and Iranian negotiators were meeting at the Hague yesterday to discuss \$500 million (£342 million) of frozen Iranian assets held in US accounts, according to a spokesman for the Iran-US claims tribunal.

Monks in clash over Bethlehem clean-up

Jerusalem - Armenian monks shouted down a Greek monk from a ladder in the Basilica of the Holy Nativity in Bethlehem yesterday when he tried to clean more of the church than was permitted in a complicated inter-confessional agreement.

Britain and Guatemala resume diplomatic relations

London - Britain and Guatemala yesterday announced the resumption of full diplomatic relations after a 23-year break. Both countries are to nominate ambassadors soon.

Treaty ignores Belize question

London - The agreed statement was one paragraph shorter than the Spanish document. Although unavailable in London, the Spanish document was said by Whitehall sources to contain a reference to Guatemala's claim.

Juan Carlos ignores ski resort hotel blast

Barcelona - King Juan Carlos of Spain was out on the slopes skiing as planned in Baqueira Beret yesterday, in spite of a bomb exploding only hours before in the leading hotel of the Pyrenean resort where some of his security men were staying.

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Tokyo to end defence taboo

From David Watts Tokyo - The Japanese Government has removed an important psychological brake on its defence expenditure with a decision to exceed a self-imposed limit of 1 per cent of gross national product next year.

Nakasone the man to break mould

The US Government will be delighted that Japan is now demonstrably willing to share more of the burden of its own defence and that of the Pacific.

Losing face on the beat in western Japan

Tokyo - Police in western Japan are still shamed after the day they had to launch a big manhunt for one of their own officers, after a case of bicycle theft.

German election to cost SPD dearly

Bonn - If the predictions of the latest opinion poll on next month's West German federal election come true, not only will the Social Democratic Party (SPD) emerge with its dream of topping Chancellor Kohl's shattered, but also with a huge campaign debt.

Voyager couple set for the big sell

After collecting medals from President Reagan here today, Dick Rutan and Jeana Yeager, the pilots who went around the world on one tank of fuel in their experimental aircraft, Voyager, will embark on a whirlwind journey to conquer the high-flying world of marketing.

SALE advertisement for MCAFEE shoes. Text includes: 'SALE', '27th December until 1st January 1987', '100 New Bond St, 17 Old Bond St, 73 Knightsbridge, 46 Cuztin St, 29 Lime St, 5 Cork St', 'brown classic oxford £69.90 now £49.00', 'brown fasselled loafer £79.90 now £49.00', 'MCAFEE shoes', 'beautifully made to last'.

THE ARTS

Even the blues are welcome

Now that the Ashes are secure, we can afford to be sanguine about the Australians' pre-eminence in virtually every other sport in which they compete.

TELEVISION

Winning lines of dialogue are already thick on the water. Tim Piggott-Smith, glinting with high-octane oil as the British challenger Peter de Savary, bounded out of a top-level parley with the words "Excuse me, I must be going, there's someone I have to sack".

It is the womenfolk's sole function here to grouch about heath and home with routine resignation while their men are being unfaithful with computers and test-tanks. It is the men's function to chew cigars and aphorisms while plotting their bellicose strategies.

But, if one is to tune in on the coming Mondays, it will surely be less for the unfolding drama (whose outcome will scarcely be a surprise) than for the opportunity to soak up much-needed blues above and below the horizon.

Martin Cropper

Among the most common criticisms made of string players (and of singers) is that their sense of pulse is often found wanting. And cellists, according to some, are the worst culprits.

Of course, great artists have always created great performances while meddling somewhat with note-values. The question is whether dwelling upon notes that are in any case naturally stressed, and taking lavish gulps for breath between phrases, amounts to interpretation, mannerism or even sheer technical convenience.

Making a desirable sort of influential mark

No major museum director in Britain over the last ten years can have had an easy ride. Constantly strapped for money, whether it is scurrying round for an extra half-worrier or puzzling over how to acquire the latest masterpiece to come on the market (at a cost, these days, of probably more than the entire annual budget), these men have to be brave and resourceful, diplomats and fund-raisers as well as scholars.

Of course, the major bungle the general public immediately thinks of in connection with the National Gallery - the question of what, exactly, is going to be built on the adjoining site; the fumbled appointment of Sir Michael's successor - are nothing to do with him.

During his time the northern extension has been opened, and it has become possible for the gallery to show all its reserve collection as well as the main (possible, at least, whenever chronic staff shortage does not enforce closure of the lower floor). The collection as a whole has been rehung, with varying results - some scintillating, some out - and the latest achievement in this sector, the reordering of the British collection in the newly restored Barry rooms, is probably the best.

Also in Sir Michael's time an Education Department has been encouraged, the Sunley Room has been opened for temporary exhibitions, even if it does seem strangely poky next to the absurdly pushy central shop (priorities more commercial than artistic, maybe?) and excellent series of small shows like The Artist's Eye (important artists make their own personal choices) and Acquisition in Focus have been instituted, as well as the more arguable notion of an Artist in Residence.

And then there have been the acquisitions themselves. Something of a sore point, in many ways, since Sir Michael has always stressed the importance of the gallery's being able to buy major works to fill, whenever possible, important gaps in the national collection, while the policy of government grants seems in the

GALLERIES

Director's Choice National Gallery

Paintings and Their Contexts I Dulwich

The New Thracian Treasure/Modern Chinese Prints British Museum

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One up to Sir Michael Levey: Albrecht Altdorfer's Christ Taking Leave of His Mother

recovered with remarkable speed and efficacy from the aberrations of the Gang of Four but that continuity has been effectively preserved through the years of the Red Guard.

There does not seem, even now, to be any dominant style. Little interest is manifested here in abstract art: the most abstract pieces are also the

China eastern and western approaches to the graphic arts are being crossed with each other, and the resulting strain, if a little mongrel, has all the vitality and intelligence so often denied to those more carefully bred for purity.

John Russell Taylor

THEATRE

Sleeping Beauty Tron, Glasgow

Red Riding Hood Citizens', Glasgow

While the traditional pantomimes are packing them in in Glasgow and Edinburgh with the well-loved comic actor Stanley Baxter and Rikki Fulton, Glasgow's Tron Theatre have taken the enterprising risk of casting a young and upcoming local comedian as the comic linchpin of their Sleeping Beauty.

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Words above the music

The silent noise of "surtitles" has been growing for a while, but their arrival at Covent Garden for the new Jenifa does demand, as I said in my review of it, we are confronted with a new version of the words-or-music argument.

The introduction of surtitles in opera has created at least as many problems as it has solved, considers Paul Griffiths

an assimilated knowledge of the opera, or the libretto, or at least the synopsis, the difference being that this does not require one to read along with the show, and so concern oneself with the spectral carry-over rather than the thing itself.

Reading is also a quite different sort of activity from responding to an operatic performance, and by its difference may suggest that something is lacking from the experience. If Covent Garden really do feel that their audience need help, then much the more obvious course, particularly in an opera where virtually all the cast are native English speakers (what price those "sounds envisaged by the composer"?), would be to sing in translation.

Perhaps the essence of the problem is the assumption that knowledge of the constituents enhances an aesthetic experience; but there is no reason why it should. Knowing the text of an opera may be as useful as knowing the structure of chlorophyll when one looks at a landscape: a slight enhancement, but not one to be blown up in letters a foot high.

There are, also, severely practical objections to sur-

titles. From the upper parts of the house, apparently, they can be taken in along with the stage, but certainly from the level of the stalls one needs to flip one's glance upwards in order to follow them. An audience with divided visual attention is inevitably going to miss some of the action, and I cannot imagine that producers and singers are going to like being upstaged by the public's autocue: I understand that Yuri Lyubimov, the Jenifa producer, is firmly against the innovation.

Wisely Covent Garden are asking customers to complete a questionnaire designed to test the acceptability of surtitles and, though you cannot avoid them if you want to see Jenifa, there will be performances of Zueschichte and Rosencavalier both surtitled and not. If there should be any demand for surtitles, then at least this option should remain. But, if surtitles are to become a part of life, then there needs to be some improvement on their pretty crude state at the moment. For, despite computer control, they cannot easily distinguish who is singing what in ensembles, nor convey long sentences, nor always keep pace with the action. They may, indeed, create so many problems that some help will be needed for one to be able to understand those faltering words up on the screen. Perhaps, then, they could be acted out somewhere, maybe with musical support...

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Econometric crystal balls

One prediction for 1987 can be made with certainty: hi-tech business forecasting will be back in fashion

A dozen years ago you could hardly open a newspaper without reading either pessimistic forecasts for the world and its environment or the gung-ho technological utopianism of futurologists such as Herman Kahn of the Hudson Institute.

Forecasts were unimpressed by the oil price explosion of the mid-1970s. By the economic recession at the turn of the decade, the think tanks simply could not keep up. Not that they lacked influence: much of the supply-side economic rhetoric of the early Reagan years, and its accompanying social theory, were based on Keynesian principles of abundant natural resources and man's ability to transform them to his requirements.

But as James Bellini, a Briton and former colleague of Kahn, points out, many of the models of world economic growth or ecological disaster which proliferated in the 1970s were based on the premise that economics is a laboratory science. Unemployment, global debt and the distorting influence of growing black economies changed all that.

New businesses want to know about emerging trends in people's habits. They might employ market researchers like Gallup or MORI. The Henley Centre for forecasting would offer either/or scenarios - for instance, the prospects for a company's leisure sales given certain behavioural tendencies and different Conservative, Labour and Alliance economic policies. In this kind of forecasting there is little guesswork. The information is already available. It is a matter of coming to the right conclusions.

New economic circumstances have also created a market for country risk analysis, which combines political, economic and social forecasts to determine whether a country is worth investing in.

This does not mean that econometric models have been discarded. They are regarded as important standards on which further analysis can be based. Here we profile some of the major forecasters and offer a summary of their main predictions for the year ahead.

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CONCISE CROSSWORD NO 1142

ACROSS: 1 Hairpiece (6), 5 Wines (6), 8 Nothing (3), 9 Order (6), 10 Parentless child (6), 11 Scots girl (4), 12 Parody (8), 14 "Castle of Otranto" author (6,7), 17 Identify illness (8), 19 As well (4), 21 Odd one out (6), 23 Pink rhododendron (6), 24 Archaeological excavation (3), 25 Bizarre type (6), 26 Excused (6).



SOLUTION TO NO 1141: ACROSS: 1 Barrel, 5 Mute, 6 Owling, 7 Tendiril, 11 Benignly, 13 Fitz, 15 Garibaldi, 18 Looc, 19 Eggplant, 22 Gestapo, 23 Fugue, 24 Espy, 25 Nuzzle, 26 Doo, 18 Lay, 23 Garu, 14 Slip, 15 Genesis, 16 Stig, 17 Steed, 28 Angel, 21 Vary, 23 Foz.



Going to earth: Luigi Perticarari, king of the Italian grave-robbers, slips through a hole revealed by the plough to discover yet another Etruscan tomb in the hillside of Tarquinia

Plundering the underworld

Helped by the smugglers of the Mafia, Italy's tomb robbers supply the world's major museums every year with Greek, Roman and Etruscan treasures worth millions of pounds. Geraldine Norman investigates

Luigi Perticarari is a tomb robber. In Tarquinia, which was one of the greatest Etruscan cities of antiquity, he is known as *il mago* - "the magician" - because of his apparently supernatural ability to find tombs still unripped after 2,000 years. He is one of Italy's many hundred *tombaroli* and *clandestini* (tomb robbers and illegal excavators) who rifle the buried settlements of antiquity by night and sell their finds to foreign dealers.

Luigi is the self-appointed spokesman of the *tombaroli*. He published his memoirs in June, *I segreti di un tombarolo* ("The Secrets of a Tomb Robber"), and speaks with charm and pride of his trade, pouring scorn on the state archaeological service for not seeking his advice. He claims more first-hand knowledge of Etruscan tombs than any living archaeologist, probably with justice. But he fails to appreciate that his activity has destroyed for ever the possibility of others sharing his knowledge.

His story, multiplied many hundred times over, explains the devastating pillage of Italy's archaeological heritage that has taken place over the last 20 years, and its gathering momentum. It also highlights how inadequate the Italian authorities' efforts to protect their patrimony have been.

From around the eighth to the third century BC, the Etruscans buried their dead with rich grave furnishings, painted terracotta vases - some imported from Athens - bronze ornaments, gold and jewellery. The grandest tombs were frescoed with scenes from earthly life - banquets and hunting scenes - or mythology.

Luigi claims to have emptied 3,000 to 4,000 tombs during 30 years of activity, despite spending 11 of them in prison. He lives modestly in a suburb of Tarquinia in a house he built for himself - he is a stonemason when he can find time for a legitimate trade - incorporating secret hideaways and storerooms.

The Etruscans chose a long hillside above Tarquinia for their

ceremonial graves. It commands magnificent views of the mountains and the sea. Over the principal graves, already excavated, little cement butts with sloping roofs have been erected and the curious are locked out. A small enclosure of tombs at one end of the ridge is open to the public. The rest of the area is ploughed and planted every year.

Luigi calls it his *il mio regno* - his "kingdom". Beneath the plough are literally thousands of graves, many of which he has visited and cleared. The heavy modern tractors rumbling overhead are now causing annual damage to the caverns below, he says. Only 100 yards from the road that runs along the crest of the hill Luigi could show us a round hole in the plough where the roof of a tomb had collapsed. "It was robbed in antiquity," he said. "They took the bronzes and the gold, but

the vases are still there." In broad daylight we slipped into its cavernous depth.

Beneath the road itself the men from the Arts Ministry are busy recording for posterity a tomb painted with scenes from the underworld which dates from the end of



Rich pickings: an unspoiled grave

the fifth century BC. They came on it when checking the route of a new water supply pipe. The aim was to ensure that no important archaeological evidence was destroyed by the pipe's construction; luckily it runs a few feet away from the newly discovered tomb.

The necropolis at Tarquinia is accepted as the most important burial complex of the Etruscan world. Many of its magnificent grave furnishings are now on display in foreign museums, bereft of their history, thanks to the activities of Luigi and his friends. Meanwhile the Italian authorities permit a water supply pipe to run through the necropolis and tractors to shake in the roofs of tombs. The creeping presence of the town itself is also invading areas of archaeological significance.

The proceeds earned from smuggling artefacts out of the area over

the last 20 years would have paid for its conversion into an archaeological park. Had the Italian authorities, not the *tombaroli*, sold the treasures to museums, they would have had the money to excavate and landscape the area for visitors. But since buried treasures are the inalienable property of the State under Italian law, no official sales can take place. Museum storerooms are overflowing with material from official excavations, not to mention material confiscated from *tombaroli* by the police.

The same opportunities exist at other Greek, Roman and Etruscan sites up and down Italy. Scholars estimate that only some 20 per cent of the tomb furnishings of antiquity have yet been unearthed or destroyed. This extraordinary buried museum could be brought to light in an ordered manner, leaving the monumental remains open for interested visitors to explore and the treasures on display in museums with full identification of how and where they were found. Or else it can be left to the *tombaroli*, tractors, civil engineers and builders to gradually destroy the lot.

FROM TOMB TO MUSEUM SHELF: HOW THE SMUGGLERS LEGITIMIZE THEIR TREASURES

Since the last war more Greek, Etruscan and Roman treasures have come to light, mostly as a result of illicit digs, than had surfaced in the preceding 2,000 years. They have been found in other Mediterranean countries but the prime source is Italy.

The material is smuggled into Switzerland, mostly by lorry drivers carrying ordinary merchandise for export. Once in Switzerland it enters the legitimate art market and is sold to museums and private collectors. The rarest treasures tend to be negotiated privately by dealers while the bulk of more ordinary material is consigned to Sotheby's and Christie's in London, or lesser auction houses in France, Germany and Switzerland.

The well-publicized sales of antiquities at Sotheby's and Christie's, with glossy catalogues

and high prices, are a major encouragement to the *tombaroli*. They provide information on prices and demonstrate that there is a ready market. Most of the material now circulating in the market comes from post-war illegal digs but since its excavation was not documented and pieces have changed hands several times, this is impossible to prove.

The auction houses are signatories to the London art trade's code of practice which outlawed handling a sale when there is reasonable cause to believe "that an important object... originates from an illegal, clandestine or otherwise unofficial site". They defend their involvement in the antiquities market on grounds of ignorance. It is impossible, they say, to turn away vendors who have legitimate legal title to the goods they offer for sale just because they

could have been excavated illegally. Indeed, the only way to avoid handling illicit finds would be to drop out of the antiquities market altogether and this the auction houses are not prepared to do.

Auctioneers, however, are only the middle men. The Getty Museum in Malibu, California, has formed a superb collection of antiquities over the last 10 years, mostly from illicit excavations. "Sono nemici di cultura" growls the Soprintendente of Southern Etruria - "they are the enemies of culture".

The Metropolitan Museum in New York has made several spectacular purchases over the same period, including the famous \$1 million Euphronios vase. "Every scholar knows it can only come from Carvetari," complains Professor Palattino of Rome's Tuscia Institute, "but they continue to pretend it was found in Lebanon." The

recent purchases of the Basle and Copenhagen Museums are also roundly condemned.

Only one important museum in the world has so far taken a clear stand by refusing to purchase any material which could be smuggled - the British Museum in London. The purchasing power of museums outside Italy is enormous and there are also several multimillionaire collectors in the market. Bunker Hunt, the Texan oil millionaire, for instance.

The big money has attracted organized crime. "The use of drugs is spreading into the country towns of Italy," explained an authority who asked not to be named. "The drug dealers run across the *tombaroli* and saw the rich pickings to be made from organizing the business on an international scale." The Mafia has taken up archaeology.

Two cheers for the resolution

The queues are already stretching around the block for festive spirit but thanks to the anti-alcoholism crusade of Mikhail Gorbachov it looks set to be an unusually dry New Year for most East Europeans.

Alcoholism is the Slavic disease. Peek on pay day into the alley-ways and windy stairwells of the seedier housing estates of Warsaw, Budapest and Prague and the whole world will seem to be in an alcoholic haze: flushed men and women bump into each other, slump to the ground, or laugh raucously, their breath a fire hazard. On Friday nights in Warsaw's Praga district, the moonshine merchants do flourishing trade; all week they have stockpiled sugar, and the potatoes that will form the basis of some of the most potent vodka in the world are on the boil.

The most comprehensive statistics come from Poland where, even before Gorbachov came to power, alcoholism was regarded as a serious social malaise. Hungary admits to a big alcohol problem. So, less publicly, does Bulgaria. Czechoslovakia and East Germany also have

New Year's Eve offers the last chance for the heavy drinkers of the Soviet bloc to charge their glasses freely

bad drinking habits but concede this only in restricted-circulation medical journals. It is difficult to know whether Poland has the worst alcoholism rate in the bloc or is simply the most open about it. Last year Poland's per capita alcohol consumption amounted to 6.8 litres of 100 per cent alcohol. The per capita calculation distorts - it includes a few million babies and toddlers. The estimate also excludes moonshine liquor (which accounts for about 20 per cent of alcohol consumption), wine and beer. There are almost 1 million alcoholics in Poland and according to police estimates, two million Poles become drunk every day.

In East Germany, the per capita alcohol consumption is even higher than in Poland - about 13 to 16 litres a year - which seems to reflect the Germanic custom of mixing beer with schnapps rather than sticking to vodka.

From January 1, 1987, the counter-offensive begins, at least in some of the Soviet bloc countries. Sales and consumption of alcohol in

Hungarian offices and factories will be banned during working hours and violators will be fined more than a month's wages. Exceptions can be made for office parties but only after working hours. Bulgaria is cutting the production of alcohol for domestic consumption and turning some bars into cafes.

If the Polish example is anything to go by, the measures will have no great impact on drinking habits. In 1982 the Poles introduced an anti-alcohol law that was regarded as a model of its kind. It bans the sale of drink before 1pm, banishes drink from the workplace, restricts the numbers of sales outlets, with particularly tough penalties for moonshine dealers, and it has introduced the idea - if not the practice - of control squads to check the sobriety of factory workforces.

Notices are pinned up in cafes and bars warning about the evils of drink, and all alcohol advertising is banned. The Catholic church has been persuading workers to renounce drink. All to no avail. The profit motive is at work, although the losses from

drunken labour are huge, so too are the state profits from the sale of alcohol. Poland regularly publishes a list of the 500 most profitable companies and Polmos, the official producer and distributor of alcohol, is always at the top. Last year, Poles spent 687 billion zlotys (£300 million) on alcohol in official hard currency stores.

Vodka is the sustaining force on the black market. An increase in the official price of vodka leads immediately to a rise in the black market value of the dollar.

Alcohol bought for dollars or pounds rather than zlotys is slightly cheaper. And the law has other loopholes. Restricting opening times simply encourages the moonlighters (15,000 illegal stills were closed down last year) who can sell their wares at any time. Checks on workers' sobriety are haphazard - some leeway, for example, is given to building workers who need to fortify themselves from the cold.

Somehow, despite the best efforts of Gorbachov, the east Europeans will find a way of getting drunk this festive season. But the traditional toast of *Na zdrowie* ("To your health") may ring a little hollow.

Roger Boyes

Simpson

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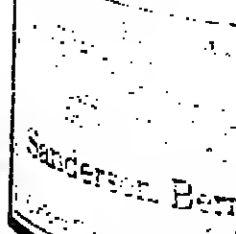
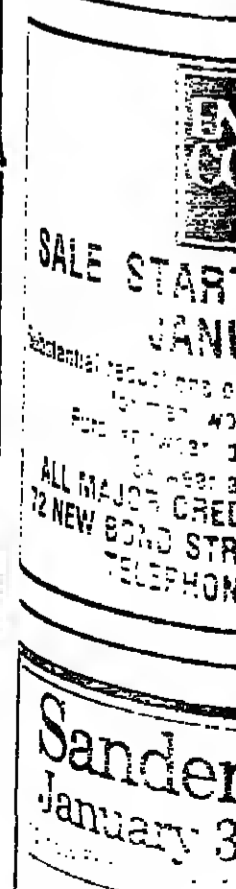
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FASHION by Suzy Menkes

The weird and the wearable

close up JEAN-PAUL GAULTIER



"I feel much too old to be an enfant terrible" Jean-Paul Gaultier (above)

The newest shape of things to come is stretchy and shiny and uses man-made fibres. British street style has paved the way for the naughty boy of French fashion, with his love of futuristic fabrics and blatant artificiality



ABOVE: "Everything stretchy, shiny and false" for Jean-Paul Gaultier's black corset top and stretch girdle skirt from his spring collection at A la Mode, 38 Hans Crescent, SW3 from the end of January. Shoe ruffe gloves from Harvey Nichols, Knightsbridge, SW1. Red suede shoes by Johnny Moka from 395 Kings Road, SW10

TOP RIGHT: The Gaultier puffball: a polka dot pleated long skirt pulled up on an elastic hem to double over. Narrow-shouldered spot blouse. Both from A la Mode, end of January. Lace-up ankle boots from Barratt

ABOVE RIGHT: "I was brought up in fashion to know how to use a knife and fork," says Gaultier of his training. This tailored body-slimming black and white checked coat dress by Jean-Paul Gaultier from A la Mode, end of January. Red mittens from Fenwick, New Bond Street, W1. Suede cap from Workers for Freedom, 4/4a Lower John Street, W1

The naughty boy of French fashion will be 35 in April. But designer Jean-Paul Gaultier still gets his kicks from mocking the bourgeoisie. In his surreal fashion shows, nothing is quite as it seems.

He has made the corset and the bra his signature — but worn chaste on top of folds of fabric. A regular man's tuxedo jacket turns to reveal a naked cut-out back. Quilted eiderdowns are puffed out into full skirts. A simple sweater glows with luminous lettering when the lights go down.

Behind Gaultier is a training in conventional French couture where he learned to cut and sew. Ahead, he sees a future for clothes moulded out of new materials.

"We have done everything we can with the silhouette," says the designer who put his fashion stamp on the A-line skirt a year ago. "People are not prepared to be dictated to. It is new fabrics which give modernism to fashion."

For Gaultier that means, as with his clothes design, bucking the current trend. He was the first designer to renounce natural fabrics for mock leather and stretchy ski pants in his debut collection of 1979.

Now he has become the high priest of nylon and viscose, using anything that seems "stretchy, shiny or false."

"I was very naive in that first collection," he says. "All I wanted to do was the opposite of the very loose clothes that were being made."

Jean-Paul Gaultier has always seemed closer to the iconoclastic, whacky spirit of young London, than to the highbrow chic of the Paris boulevards. His collections of

tail coats and mixed prints, his use of Russian Cyrillic script and his heavy post-punk boots with spandly striped leggings, seemed to be inspired by British street style. Although he denies it ("I think what I do is very French"), English students feel that their cult hero absorbs ideas, and then produces them, with infuriating skill, as desirable high fashion.

Now those students have a chance to collaborate with Gaultier on a fabric scheme for Courtauld's. Gaultier has set a project for the Courtauld Design Awards, Britain's most important student design competition, to design a futuristic fabric round which Gaultier will produce a capsule collection next summer. Five colleges are being asked to design up to three Courtauld jersey fabrics on a theme of "modernity, technology, artificiality and futurism."

Gaultier's passion for man-made fabrics started when he "opened his grandmother's cupboards" and gazed at her corsets inside. His synthetics have included a Courtauld panne velvet used in his first collection and imaginative variations on once-despised shiny and stretchy materials, which he is convinced will mould the shape of clothes to come.

The first corsets came in Gaultier's spring collection shown in October 1982, when all the garments expressed themselves in movement, looked extraordinarily odd, and were his attempt at Dadaism in dress.

The impish Gaultier draws in references from different cultures, sending up the *Discreet Charm of the Bourgeoisie* in a collection of clothes inspired by the French con-

gerge class, and shocking the straight fashion world with his men's collections of high heels, powder puffs and lace. "My menswear is out gay," he says indignantly. "I was challenging fashion history by showing that lace for men does not only mean Louis XIV, and high heels Louis XV. The liberation of women has also brought us the new man."

Gaultier showed skirts for men (albeit as apron-fronted trousers in sober pin stripes) and a witty collection of gingham beachwear offering up men as Bardot-style sex objects. Both were fashion milestones in that they de-

finied how far the peacock male was prepared to strut. Gaultier points out that he offers more than one fashion type in his collections. The fact that he is able to weave the wearable in with the weird, is his strength (and the reason why Italian and Japanese companies continue to support him).

Like a Dalí, who had to know how to draw before he could break the rules, Gaultier's surreal fashions start from a classic base. His jackets, buttoned askew and asymmetrically draped, were actually masterpieces of cutting. Gaultier had two spells with the house of Cardin, the

first at the age of 18, and two years in the haute couture studio of Jean Patou, where he worked with Michel Goma and Angelo Tarlazzi.

"I was born in the 1950s and I love the fashions of the Fifties," says Gaultier. "I like modernity, but I think I take a little from the Fifties, something of today and a hope of tomorrow."

The chic and kitsch sexuality that permeates Gaultier's collections has nothing to do with the status-conscious world of French couture. Nor have his shows, which themselves are directional: fashion as theatre in a circus ring, the more recent shows exhibited

no scaffolding with the models making a fashion still life. And the corset dresses? They have been interpreted variously as a return to womanly curves or to the rigidly controlled bodies of the 1950s; as a send-up of a society obsessed with sex, or as a fashion statement about man-made, second-skin fabrics.

"Sex is a part of life," says Gaultier. "I won't say that the Twiggy look is past, because that suggests that I am defining a fashionable person. In Paris, prostitutes would wear corset dresses. But only men of another generation would see it like that. The idea is to play with the code."

PEOPLE

Soviet style

The new fashion awareness by Russia's first lady Raisa Gorbachova seems to be bearing unexpected fruit. Nine outfits from the bulging closets of Peter the Great go on display at the Barbican at the end of the month, in a rich and rare exhibition of Russian dress. The costumes, which also include Catherine the Great's fanciful military-inspired dress, are from the 25,000 pre-Revolutionary fashions stored away in Leoigrad's Hermitage and never seen outside the Soviet Union. Mrs Gorbachova, whose taste is for foreign design over the stodgy native products, can find fashion precedent in this exhibition which includes clothes made during the Romanov years by Pacquin and Poiret in Paris and by that English fashion man abroad, Charles Worth.

Go show

Is the Chambre Syndicale in Paris about to fold its fashion tents? Ten years after the circus spectacles were launched, I hear that the Chambre's Director, Jacques Monclier, is hoping to build a more permanent home for France's bi-annual ready-to-wear shows. Architects are running their slide rules over the basement of the new Musée de la Mode to see if it can be made into a fashion show centre. But just as American buyers, and several of the leading designers, have announced that the days of the tents are numbered, a new group, calling themselves La Moda aux Tuileries, is planning to pitch camp down the road from the Louvre to cash in on the official showing in March.

Royal red

It was a great Christmas for coats when the royals turned out in the rain for morning service at St George's Chapel, Windsor. Shapely tailoring rather than street-wise oversize was the look, from Prince William's nanny-knows-best coat to Lady Helen Windsor's floor-sweeping swirl, by the royals' favourite, Catherine Walker of Chelsea Design. Diana and the Duchess of York made a double act in Father Christmas scarlet and cossock hats.

onometric crystal balls

prediction for 1987 can be made with certainty: hi-tech business clothing will be back in fashion

Now businesses want to know about emerging trends in people's habits. The market research firm GfK says that the 1987 fashion forecast would be a return to the 1980s — the prospects for the company's leisure sales are bright. Labour and Alliance economic policies in the 1980s are already available in a number of coming to the fore.

New economic circumstances have also created a market for country risk analysis, which combines political, economic and social forecasts to determine whether a country is worth investing in.

This does not mean the onometric models have been discarded. They are regarded as important situations in which further analysis can be based. Here is a list of some of the major players and offer a summary of their main predictions for the year.

...PEAKING... REPAIRS...

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ENRICO COVERI SALE STARTS ON FRIDAY JANUARY 2 Substantial reductions on exclusive pret-a-porter lines for men, women and children Furs, knitwear, daywear, eveningwear, Skewear and accessories ALL MAJOR CREDIT CARDS ACCEPTED 72 NEW BOND STREET LONDON W1Y 9DD TELEPHONE 01-629 4005

Sanderson Sale January 3-January 24 Monday-Friday 9.30am-5.30pm. Saturday 9.00am-5.30pm Fabrics, Wallpapers, Bedlinen, 15% off Sanderson Upholstery and Dining Room Furniture 15% off Dunstons and Sinclair Mielson Upholstery Large reductions on: Lighting, Curtain Poles, Quilted Fabric and Various ex Display Items Sanderson, Berners St., London W1 Coffee Shop Oxford Circus or Tottenham Court Road Tube Stations.

G-I-A-N-T S-A-L-E LONDON'S FINEST LUXURY BEDS & LUXURY BEDDING ALL REDUCED HURRY! HALF PRICE BARGAINS Subject to being used (showroom models, slightly abraded) WATERBED double size SAVE £749 11,874 12,623 6'0" x 6'0" STAPLES DOPPELHAGEN SAVE £436 12,461 13,897 5'0" x 6'0" SUPERIOR EXCELLENCE SAVE £424 11,845 12,271 5'0" x 6'0" BECKSON AMBASSADOR SAVE £249 1,943 2,192 5'0" x 6'0" SLEEPER EXECUTIVE SAVE £238 1,943 2,181 4'6" x 6'0" SLEEPER SHERIDAN SAVE £211 1,510 1,721 All beds in 12 days & rest, medium or firm. Big Savings on every bed. SPACE SAVERS - MONEY SAVERS TRUNDLE BED 3'0" wide, Solid pine, casters SAVE £116 515 629 STACKING BED 3'. Covers to 2 single beds. SAVE £96 1,179 1,275 DRAWER STORAGE 4-drawers 3'0", SAVE £65 1,214 1,279 OTTOMAN STORAGE 4-drawers 3'0", SAVE £67 1,214 1,281 Also: LUXURY BEDLINENS HALF PRICE Big savings, bedlinens by Peter Reed, direct covers, pillows & sheets. THIS IS THE ONLY BEDDING STORE IN THE CITY with each purchase of a bed or sofa bed - everyone wins. BUY AT SLOANE ST. AFTER CHRISTMAS. Free parking, free gifts, fantastic bargains - and the best selection in town. Shop early for the best offers. Free delivery on orders over £100 in England and Wales. Save open six days a week. Multiple Storey car parking at rear of building. Extra Price refers to items which have been offered previously at higher prices although the opportunity for a continuous period of 23 days, within the previous 12 months. SPECIAL FREE PARKING 10.00am-6.00pm (weekends and holidays)

WINTER SALE EARLY BIRDS ONE ONLY SPECIALS MARCY MULTIGYM £1,400 £150 KENT OLYMPIC COMPETITION SADDLE £399 £75 SET OF TITLEIST IRONS (9) £355.95 £35 O'BRIEN BLACK MAGIC WATERSKI KNEEBOARD £195 £25 TURNER SNOOKER TABLE (6'x3') £275 £25 TUNTURI GL.ROWER £165 £15 HEAD SCORPIO SKIS £99.99 £10 You ain't seen nothing yet! Sale starts 8.30am Friday 2nd January Lillywhites PICCADILLY CIRCUS

LOEWE PRET-A-PORTER / FASHION AND TRAVEL ACCESSORIES SALE NOW ON THE MOST EXCITING WINTER SALE ON THE FINEST LEATHERS IN THE WORLD LOEWE 25 OLD BOND STREET LONDON W1 01-493 3914 47-49 BRIMPTON ROAD (NIGHTSBRIDGE) LONDON SW3 01-581 4014

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THE TIMES DIARY

Driving a wedge

After four years of prevarication by his Department, Nicholas Ridley, the Environment Secretary, has just approved a plan by the Earl of Scarborough for a golf course on Malby Common in South Yorkshire. This has quite hunkered local opponents of the scheme. At a public inquiry in 1982 objectors claimed that the Earl did not own the common and was therefore debarred from making the application. However, the then Secretary of State, Tom King, subsequently declared that he had seen documents which "sufficiently substantiated" the Earl's claim. The objectors at the inquiry asked to see this evidence, but the request was turned down. I expect the local objectors to drop the matter, for they would now have to take legal action through the High Court, which they could ill afford.

A useful tip for newspaper owners engaged in clandestine warfare comes from this advert in a Fulham Road pet shop: "Bull Terrier; £250 for quick sale. Good with kids and with newspapers."

Pious hope

A reader tells me that a wall of Richmond parish church in London carries a memorial to a vicar who died in 1806. "Pure, Just, Beneficent, Liberal and Pious" is the inscription. Sitting below it on Sunday mornings can often be seen Alan Watson, Liberal candidate for the marginal Tory constituency of Richmond and Barnes. Could he be hoping the electors of Richmond will make a connection?

Colonel Clint

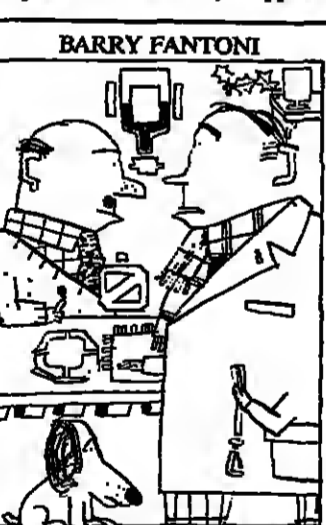
In Clint Eastwood trying to make a point or is it just coincidence that the poster for his latest blood and guts extravaganza, *Hearbreak Ridge*, a homely tale of machine-guns, Marines and the island of Grenada, portrays him as a dead ringer for the ubiquitous Ollie North, even down to the decorations? Cynics might suggest that Warner Brothers is just cashing in on another old actor's hardship.

Kicking it

The Dutch Reformed Church in South Africa is slowly coming to terms with the new reality. According to the *Catholic Herald*, DRC ministers are doing their best to cut down on racist remarks. And, rather like drinking, they are restricting themselves to one in the morning, one at lunch, and one good one with friends.

Knock in vain

City communicants looking for seasonal spiritual solace will find no room at the High Anglican church of St Mary Aldermay in Bow Lane. It's shut. A note pinned to the door reads: "Closed for the Christmas holiday (December 20th to January 6th)." What of the vicar and his verges? Watching the telly with the rest of us, I suppose.



Evening, Bill Flint of New Evidence Sends Shock Waves Through City

Telefission

Irish television is celebrating its twenty-fifth anniversary to general acclaim. Not such ordinary news as you might think, in view of the caution with which the service was greeted on its foundation. President de Valera considered that the possible results, "for good or evil", would compare in magnitude with the splitting of the atom. Veteran parliamentarian Oliver J. Flanagan dismissed establishment fears of its effects on the nation's morals with the immortal question: "Was not sex in Ireland before television?" Happily the consequences appear to have gone no further than "bringing Ireland out of its corner of the world", as one critic put it this week.

Island TT

How inappropriate of the Jersey Tourist Board to run a television ad in which actor John Nettles, who plays the title role in *Bergerac*, is seen swigging a pint of lager. Did it not realize that the character, portrayed as something of a hero on Jersey, is meant to be a reformed alcoholic?

Losing height

Another example of bookshop misfiling, this time from Norman Gelb, the mildly miffed author of a recent work on the Battle of Britain entitled *Scramble*. When a friend tried to buy it in a London bookshop he was instantly referred to the fiction shelves. Hardly fair testimony to the book's veracity.

PHS

The crisis over US arms sales to Iran is described in Middle Eastern terms, but is really about America. The Iranian regime is pursuing its course more or less as it was doing before the bizarre arms deliveries.

The Iranian revolution is savage, but it is not small-minded. It is a serious chapter in the history of ideas and it is not going to be dethroned or humanized by trivial cloak and dagger gestures. That some US officials believed Iranian "moderates" could be won over by sending the regime inconsequential packages of arms tells an ominous story about decision-making in Washington.

If responsible Israelis believed such things, we would be in serious intellectual trouble. More likely, they were acting out of friendship for an American ally with an unassailable claim to our solidarity.

George Shultz, Secretary of State, was the most lucid voice during the recent turbulence, and his present counsel is that we all return to rationality in dealing realistically with hostage problems and in avoiding the reinforcement of anti-western Islamic fundamentalism.

There is no reason for any of us to be delighted about the victory of either Iran or Iraq in the Gulf War. But an Iraqi victory - which is unlikely - would be the success of the army of a country whose interventions against Israel have been mischievous but marginal.

On the other hand, a triumph for Khomeinism, aided by Western arms, would be the triumph of a contagious idea. If that idea were to sweep across Iraq, Saudi Arabia, the Gulf states, Egypt and Jordan, the Middle East would be an uncomfortable place for Israel and a poor environment for the survival of humane values or stable societies.

It is a clear case for a hands-off policy until real opportunities for influencing the Gulf area arise. The war is more likely to end in compromise between exhausted belligerents than in the creation of a new power centre in the region. To divide ourselves into pro-Iraqis and pro-Iranis is folly.

Abba Eban, former Israeli foreign minister, puts the troubles now besetting President Reagan into an overall Middle East context

Don't let Iran divert us from path of peace

One lesson to be learned would be a less deferential attitude to clandestine diplomacy in all free societies. These are more colourful than regular statecraft and far more productive of best-selling novels and investigative journalism, but they rarely affect the large currents of history.

If the Middle East is relatively unchanged by the recent tumult, the same cannot be said of America. Friends of the United States in Europe, the Middle East and elsewhere have a helpless sense of being crucially affected by events in which they have no right or capacity of direct influence.

Because Europe's immense economic and intellectual potential has not been reflected in an autonomous international role, the United States is the only free society whose domestic events cast their shadow across the entire human scene. All that other family members can do is indicate as tactfully as possible what they would like it to do.

We must first hope that Washington will break out of its obsessive preoccupation with a single issue. The spectacle of a great power having little time for anything except relentless self-investigation drives its friends to compassionate frustration.

It is beyond question that the Watergate crisis of 1974 impeded the solution of international prob-

lems. James Callaghan has instanced the case of Cyprus. My own conviction is that a continuation of Henry Kissinger's mission in the summer of 1974 might have added an Israeli-Jordanian disengagement agreement to those already reached with Egypt and Syria. If that had occurred, the Arab-Israeli area would look different today.

The effective and dignified working of the US presidency is a crucial component of the international balance. Many non-Americans are thus the allies of those in the US working for the restoration of domestic stability.

It would be defeatist to regard the Reykjavik summit as the collapse of hope for arms control. The intervening discussion seems to call for limited agreements for control rather than a Utopian vision of abolition. But the main question is whether arms control should pre-empt the US-Soviet agenda to the exclusion of the regional tensions which are more likely to threaten world peace.

Even spectacular reductions in nuclear weaponry would still leave the world exposed to the threat of a nuclear holocaust. On the other hand, wars raging in the Gulf and Afghanistan and unresolved tension in the Caribbean and the Middle East could conceivably lead to fatal miscalculations. And Reykjavik has been followed by

some hopeful first signs of progress in human rights, as the release of Sakharov proves. The pretence that arms control is the only key to détente has not stood any empirical test.

It might seem unrealistic for me in Jerusalem to assume that a tormented Washington might now give its attention to encouraging a peace process in this region. Yet the objective possibility of success for American good offices is greater than is widely assumed. President Mubarak and Mr Peres, at their Alexandria meeting last November, urged that 1987 become the "year of negotiation". Jordan has endorsed that hope.

Mr Peres, in his two years as prime minister, managed to expunge the idea of annexing the West Bank and Gaza from Israel's official doctrine as defined in the 1984 Coalition agreement. Over a million Israelis voted for vigorous anti-annexationist platforms in the 1984 election. The maintenance of a deadlock with continued Israeli rule over a huge Palestine Arab population might soon weigh more painfully on Israeli democracy than on the Arabs who live under that rule. There are Palestinian leaders who are now beginning to understand that the traditional PLO slogans envisaging Israel's disappearance are idle fantasy.

Those who strive for peace in this region must be thankful for such small mercies, in which case we would cease calling them small. US mediation contributed to Israel's five signed agreements with Egypt and Syria between 1974 and 1979. Many Israelis aspire to a structural condition which would give our country the hope of reconciling its security with its democratic vocation. But if 1987 is to be a year of American paralysis, it is unlikely to be a year of Middle Eastern negotiation. It is for the United States to decide whether this vision is less alluring or worthy than a prolonged investigatory ordeal. Its friends can only hope that it will add a capacity for resilience to its other proven qualities. This article is also appearing in the New York Times.

Roger Scruton Exam figures - and facts

A report published yesterday argued that the state education system is in a state of crisis and that only a new dispensation can give the children of poorer families the opportunities they need. Readers of this page may greet the report with scepticism, remembering Anne Sofer's article two weeks ago. Mrs Sofer produced figures from a DES report showing a small improvement in examination results between 1976 and 1985. Thus 16 per cent of pupils left school with one or more A level passes in 1976, and 17 per cent in 1985. Of those without A levels, 8.5 per cent had 5 or more O levels (or CSE equivalent) in 1976, 11 per cent in 1985.

Moreover, in 1976 69 per cent of pupils were in comprehensive schools; in 1985, 85 per cent. "If the standards of our education system," Mrs Sofer writes, "are behind those of some other countries, it is because we started further behind, in that pre-comprehensive era often evoked nowadays as the golden age." In other words the figures are a vindication of the comprehensive system which Mrs Sofer, then a member of the Labour Party, worked so assiduously to install. The fact that the "other countries" which put us to shame - West Germany and Japan - have retained a system of selective schooling is of course irrelevant.

As a grammar school boy and a university teacher, I can remember obtaining a real education through the state system; and I am in a position to compare that education with its modern substitute, in the situation most likely to test the level of a pupil's knowledge. So my instinct is to ask whether the figures which she has chosen reflect a real tendency; and, if they do, what is the explanation?

The first thing that we notice is that the DES's figures were gathered from all schools - independent, comprehensive and selective. More discriminating research is difficult to come by, and the DES has a habit of publishing tendentious statistics. Nevertheless it has been established that no less than 63 per cent of pupils leave independent schools with at least one A level. And while only 6 per cent of school leavers are from the independent sector, these pupils obtain about 16 per cent of all O level passes, 25 per cent of all A level passes, and 50 per cent of grade AS at A level. In the light of such statistics, it is surely nonsense to suppose that figures which refer to an overall improvement tell us much about the state educational system.

Furthermore, it has been established by the National Council for Educational Standards (and agreed, after scandalous attempts at sabotage, by the statisticians of the DES) that roughly 25 per cent higher results are to be expected from a selective system than from a system that is fully comprehensive. No overall improvement can neutralize the implications of this astounding piece of evidence.

It was in 1965 that Anthony Crosland issued his circular requiring all local education authorities to adopt the comprehensive system. With that concern for the lower orders which has ever animated the true Wykehamist, he told his wife that "if it is the last thing I do, I'm go-

ing to destroy every f---ing grammar school in England. And Wales. And Northern Ireland." Fortunately he did not succeed. We can therefore compare what happened in England after his "reforms" with what happened in Northern Ireland, which remained untouched by them. In England and Wales we find that O and A level results rose rapidly during the 1950s and '60s. Then, in the 1970s, as Crosland's measures took effect, they suddenly levelled off, showing almost no significant improvement during the decade from 1970 to 1980. In Northern Ireland however, where the selective system remained, examination results continued to rise and now stand (in a respect of those achieving one A level or five O levels) some 50 per cent higher than in England. The levelling off was totally unexpected. In 1970 the DES, extrapolating from existing trends, predicted that, in 1980, 212,000 school leavers would have at least one A level; in fact there were only 120,000.

In interpreting Mrs Sofer's figures we should also remember the following: the enormous increase in educational resources, which have more than doubled in real terms per pupil since 1961; the constant decrease in pupil-teacher ratios, now at their lowest ever level; the introduction of new, less demanding and more widely sat examinations; the radical improvement in educational opportunities for girls, the long-term effect of raising the school-leaving age; the advance of "curriculum reform"; and the introduction of "soft options", so that, for example, arts and craft and sociology now rival English and maths at A level in the ILEA.

Such facts make it immensely surprising that the proportion of pupils leaving school with an A level has not doubled during the period to which Mrs Sofer refers. In fact it has remained almost the same. In any case, what does this constancy prove? What matters is not the number of pupils who pass, but the standard which is required of them in order to do so.

When I sat O level English literature I was compelled to read Chaucer in the original: this is now generally expected only at A level. When I studied for S level mathematics, I had to solve the differential equations in Piaggio, something that is now expected only of university students. Moreover, pupils increasingly leave school with A levels in subjects like sociology, which demand little academic expertise. It is therefore quite wrong to claim that the slight improvement in passes noticed by Mrs Sofer is sufficient to prove that standards are rising.

So great has been the commitment to egalitarian reforms that people have refused to notice the extent to which the educational opportunities of poorer children have been damaged by the comprehensive system. Anne Sofer claims that the facts to which she refers have been concealed in the interests of politics. Perhaps she is right. But what of those other facts - far more telling, and to a university teacher even alarming - which have been concealed in the interests of the politics of Mrs Sofer?

The author is editor of the Salisbury Review.

Paul Pickering Painting the tree red

After watching a film about wild-eyed Japanese warriors shouting "Banzai" and hacking each other to pieces, a friend remarked: "Of course, they're just like us these days." But they're not; my goodness they're not.

I don't mean that car boot quality controller Yamashita at the Nissan plant in Co Durham will commit ritual suicide at the end of his shift if he leaves his raw fish lunch in the model meant for a VIP. Nor do I share my uncle's fear that a Japanese ratchet factory in his area is the advance guard of a creeping Japanese menace that will take over the country.

But some differences go deep. Recently, when offered extremely lucrative work from the land of the falling cherry blossom, I was silly enough to question whether, being so far away, they might forget to part with the yen on time. "Such a thing could never happen," I was told rather buffly. "If we do something dishonest we are written in red on our family tree." Being blackballed by the Garrick Club apparently has nothing on it.

Those written in red are also governed by a rigid set of rules. One is allowed to steal, extort and rob only from other criminals, all of which makes the job of the police much easier. In doubting the willingness of the company to pay I had inadvertently been comparing my would-be employer to the likes of Ronnie Kray. It is easy to see how misunderstandings arise.

The businessman then told me the sad experience of a Japanese couple on the London Underground. The girl's purse was stolen, but her stocky boyfriend cornered the mugger and ordered him to give it back. Mugger No 1 started to comply, then a larger mugger No 2 appeared on the scene.

"You too will wait here while I get the police," said the tourist, imbued with the Japanese ethos

that villains still play by the rules of "it's a fair cop, guv". Of this the muggers were unaware. They simply hit him as hard as they could and ran off with the girl's purse, into the hands of less genteel railway hobbies.

At the court case, when a counter-charge of assault against the Japanese boy was filed, he said that such a thing could not have happened because Japanese people do not like touching others, especially muggers. But what really bewildered the court was his refusal - having flown all the way back from Japan to testify - to answer questions under cross-examination.

His argument was a simple one. He had travelled a long way to tell the truth and sworn to do so. Why was the man in the black cloak calling him a liar? He had come back to see the guilty punished. To doubt his story was to imply that he too was a criminal and written in red on his family tree... it was all enough to make the judge want to eat his wig.

But such British attitudes to the law are what makes one senior executive of a Japanese company put steel bars on the windows of his Home Counties house.

"There are still many divides between us," he said, as we ate fried bean curd washed down with malt whisky, and other exquisite dishes served by his wife. "Take My wife of course permits me to go to a club with hostesses. That is the Japanese way." His delightful spouse smiled demurely.

At half past six the next morning I received a hysterical call from the executive who, after cleared, immediately imagined himself in the gossip columns. "Don't worry," I explained. "I wouldn't tell anyone. It wouldn't be cricket." There was a silence. "Clicketts?" he asked eventually, very puzzled. Oh well, vive la difference.



Letter to Lord Whitelaw by L.A. Muse. Excuse, my lord, the liberty I take By thus addressing this raw piece of verse. I need the man who's had the greatest stake. In twelve months bigger spending, Aids and worse. I've looked around and back but sadly fear That, good Lord Whitelaw, you've had an awfully good year. Two introductory notes: the first on style. You certainly still have it to the tee, A fleshy grin, a sudden dash of bile, An eyebrow hoist amid the bonhomie. You may not rouse a pack of rabid haters, But many though're your underestimators. The second is of literary convention. Where I've aimed high (how wisely you will see) At Byron, Wycliffe Auden and James Fenton, At rhythms that riled Dick Crossman and Southey. But since this is a journalist's excursion I've dropped two lines - a subedited version. Relax, I shan't chastise you for the time You chanced to find your firm and loyal fist Full of real power, when Thatcher's digit did decline Too close for comfort to her comely wrist. You held the reins as tight as tight could be, Not bad for a Viscount in the twentieth century. The job in question, that of Deputy Prime Minister, does not of course exist Except in fact. But what else matters at a time like that? Downing Street stood quiet as summer mist, You held the button (would you trade Bryansk for Bute?) While Margaret slept on morphine substitute. The crisis passed. Were crises all so easy! Westland had left the lady rather sad And Bernard Ingham's men distinctly queasy. But, as for you, things were not half so bad. That thing called "Thatcherism" not half so hearty. A helicopter had come to the aid of the Party. You'll say, perhaps, that's very well with hindsight, It didn't seem so rosy in the spring When what and why and how Mayhew might write Made every little Labour heart to sing "All hail to them who knew no better Than to leak that cruel Solicitor General's letter". There were, I grant, a few uncertain days When Margaret seemed to miss her very courage When Norman showed anticipatory ways And Denis urged the gentle road to Dulwich. Then faith returned, the prayer not "deeds" but unity. When that's the word, your lordship has impunity.

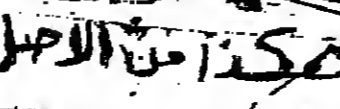
Who should be our sugar daddy?

By the middle of next month the Monopolies Commission is due to pronounce on who should control Britain's sugar industry. It is a subject that arouses strong passions, and whatever verdict the commission reaches is certain to be bitterly criticized in some quarters. At the centre of the dispute is the British Sugar Corporation, whose 13 factories process all Britain's home grown sugar beet, which last year amounted to some 7,700,000 tonnes. The rival bidders are Tate and Lyle, whose refineries at Silvertown, east London, and Greenock, in Scotland, process all the cane sugar imported from Third World countries; and the giant Ferruzzi corporation of Ravenna, Italy's third largest private sector company after Fiat and Montedison. Ferruzzi appeared to steal a march on its rival last month when, through its British subsidiary, Agricola UK, it acquired a 70 per cent stake in BSC from its present owners, the commodity brokers S & W Berisford. But the deal is subject to the approval of

the commission, which could well decide that neither takeover would be in the public interest. Tate and Lyle are arguing that a monopoly - or, to use their preferred phrase, "a unified British industry" - would be in a better position to defend the interests of British growers; a view which most growers and the National Farmers' Union appear to share. The NFU was more than a little miffed earlier this year when the man chosen to take charge of Agricola's British operation, at a reported six-figure salary, was none other than its former president, Sir Richard Butler. It made its displeasure known by publicly withdrawing its nomination of Sir Richard to be the next chairman of the promotional and marketing organization, Food from Britain.

But it is not just pique that motivates the NFU's opposition to the Ferruzzi deal. David Naish, its deputy president, is concerned about the "huge power" it would give Ferruzzi, which already has big interests in France and Italy, to manipulate the European sugar industry as a whole. While it would be unlikely to be able to "fiddle" the national quotas, which are established by the European Commission in Brussels, it might well be inclined to favour its French subsidiary, Begin-Say, when it came to disposing of non-quota surpluses, to the extent that British growers might be faced with competition from cheap French imports. "It is difficult to see how the same company can serve two masters,"

its interest in developing industrial uses for sugar, and if it needed to grow more beet for this purpose would be more likely to choose France because of its more favourable climate, Naish believes. He is also concerned about the increasing competition from sweeteners derived from iso-glucose and about Ferruzzi's close links with the Montedison chemical group. Sir Richard counter-claims that Tate and Lyle would find it equally difficult to reconcile the interests of British sugar beet growers with maintaining the profitability of the Silvertown and Greenock refineries, which are virtually the only outlet for cane imported into the EEC under the Lome Convention. He has also given an undertaking that no BSC factories would be closed for at least five years, and that present BSC management, staff and factory workers would be retained; something that the Tate and Lyle management, in talking about "consolidation", has pointedly refused to do. John Young Agriculture Correspondent



COURT AND SOCIAL

SOCIAL NEWS

The Princess of Wales will attend a performance of High Society, in aid of Help the Hospices at the Victoria Palace on February 23.

Forthcoming marriages

Captain M.B. Andrews and Miss F.L. Carter. The engagement is announced between Martin Andrews, Royal Engineers, eldest son of Mr and Mrs D.C. Andrews...

Appointments

Lieutenant-Colonel Seymour Gilbert-Dempsey to be Crown Equerry in succession to Lieutenant-Colonel Sir John Miller, who has held the appointment since 1961...

Latest wills

Mr William James Ferguson, of Westmore, formerly Chief Executive and Secretary of Lloyd's Register of Shipping, left estate valued at £104,916 net.

visit the ASHA Neighbourhood Project at 43 Strand Street, Beeston, Leeds, on February 24 and will be entertained at lunch.

Mr M.B. Hall and Miss E.S. Mayne. The engagement is announced between Michael, eldest son of the Rev John and Mrs Hall...

Mr T. Thurston and Miss K.S. Williams. The engagement is announced between Trevor, only son of Mr and Mrs N.L. Thurston...

Mr P.S. Vainker and Miss S.J. McPherson. The engagement is announced between Philip, younger son of Mr and Mrs P. Vainker...

Birthdays today

Professor Sir Roy Chinn, 56; Mr Anthony Cripps, QC, 73; General Sir David Fraser, 66; Sir Reginald Groom, 80...

Polytechnic news

North Staffordshire Mr K. B. Thompson, acting director, to be the new director of the polytechnic next year...



Joanna Pickard, of Notting Hill, London, showing off the finery of a Victorian court dress from the Kensington Palace collection during a children's morning at the museum yesterday (Photograph: Tim Bishop).

Spain reclaims philosopher

From Richard Wigg, Salamanca. Half the participants, many of them undergraduates from Salamanca and other universities, were under 30 years of age.

OBITUARY SIR DOUGLAS HADDOW

Scottish administrator in the Johnston mould. Sir Douglas Haddow, KCB, who devoted his life to administration in Scotland, and who served for eight years as Permanent Under-Secretary at the Scottish Office...

Thomas Douglas Haddow was born on February 9, 1913, and, after schooling at George Watson's College, Edinburgh, was a star student of mathematics at Edinburgh University and Trinity College, Cambridge.

He then decided to sit for the Administrative Civil Service and did so well in the examination that he could certainly have had a place in the Treasury. But he chose instead to enter the Scottish Office.

During the period immediately following the war he played a leading part in establishing the National Health Service in Scotland, and he was later, from 1959 to 1962, secretary of the department of health. He was a powerful influence in the process of reorganizing the Scottish Office...

In 1965 he was appointed Permanent Under-Secretary, and he held the post until 1973.

MR ANDREI TARKOVSKY

Mr Andrei Tarkovsky, Russian film director, died yesterday in Paris. He was 54. He was one of a generation of talented young directors who broke with orthodox "socialist realism" after the death of Stalin in 1953.

He won international acclaim when his first feature, Ivanovo Detstvo, gained the Golden Lion award at the Venice Film Festival. Throughout his career his films enjoyed a greater reputation abroad than in the Soviet Union...

Tarkovsky was born in Moscow on April 4, 1932, the son of a poet. He was a graduate of the Soviet State Film School where he studied under the director Mikhail Romm. His first film, a short called There Will Be No Leave Today, was made in 1959.

His best known picture is Andrei Rublev (1966). This tale of the medieval Russian painter was hailed in the West as a masterpiece, and won the International Critics' Prize at the 1969 Cannes Film Festival.

It was banned in Russia for five years, though, as one critic has suggested, more on account of its length (over three hours), violence, nudity and arbitrary structure than because it was any threat to the régime. The film eventually won orthodox acceptance in Moscow, where critics praised its patriotic theme.

GENERAL HUANG KE-CHENG

General Huang Ke-cheng, a companion to Mao Tse-tung and veteran of the Long March, who was purged during the Cultural Revolution, died on December 28. He was 84. Born in Hunan province, Huang attended the Whampoa Military Academy in Canton, under the control of Chiang Kai-shek.

PROF DUMAS MALONE

Dr Dumas Malone, American historian and biographer of Jefferson, died on December 27. He was 94. Born in Mississippi on January 10, 1892, he graduated from Emory University, Atlanta, and then went to study and teach at Yale.

Between 1929 and 1936 he was first editor, then editor-in-chief, of The Dictionary of American Biography, and from 1936 until 1942 editor-in-chief of the Harvard University Press.

Returning to Charlottesville, he then started work on his Jefferson biography. This eventually ran to six volumes, entitled Jefferson and His Time, and the whole work took him four decades to write. He completed it in 1981, despite being nearly blind since 1977.

Though considered by some to be over-indulgent to Jefferson's attitude to slavery, Malone is on the whole quite ready to acknowledge faults in his subject. In an interview two years ago he compared later leaders unfavourably with Jefferson and his great contemporaries.

He was married, in 1925, Elizabeth Gifford, who survives him with their son and daughter.

PROFESSOR HERBERT DIECKMANN

Professor Herbert Dieckmann, authority on Diderot and Avalon Foundation Professor Emeritus of the Humanities at Cornell University, died in Ithaca, New York, on December 16. He was 80. He was born at Duisburg, Germany, in 1906, and studied at the universities of Bonn and Paris.

He was eventually applied to work in the West, making Nostalgia in Italy in 1983. Cerebral, enigmatic and diffusely plotted, it is a return to the strange universe of Solaris and Stalker, with their haunting visions of fire and water.

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SIR TOM HOOD

Sir Tom Hood, KBE, CB, businessman and Territorial officer, died on December 14. He was 82. Tom Fielden Hood was born on March 16, 1904, and educated at Eton College, of which he later became a governor.

He was appointed a DL for Gloucestershire in 1950, and was a member of court of Bristol University since 1956. He chaired the commission of enquiry into the future of the Port of Aden in 1963. Hood was a fine figure of a man, who had been a rugby player in his youth. His forceful but likeable personality encouraged many to join the FA at a time when its fortunes were low. In business, he was shrewd and steady.



Pollution from vehicle exhausts in Stockholm, where low temperatures make the fumes more conspicuous.

Science report London lead pollution falls by half

The level of lead pollution in London's air fell by half in 1986, according to the most detailed study to be carried out anywhere in the United Kingdom in the first full year since the amount of lead in petrol was reduced. But while this improvement represents one of the biggest contributions to reducing environmental pollution recently, the fall was still lower than expected.

University news

Oxford A benefaction of £700,000 has been announced for the establishment of the M. and F. Soudavir Professorship of Persian Studies. An appointment is expected early in the new year.

Cambridge Elected into a research fellowship in chemical physics from October 1, 1987: Donald Donat Coar Briley, ESC (Leeds), of Churchill College, Cambridge.

Exeter Dr Charles Longhurst, BA, PhD (Exon), senior lecturer and head of the department of Spanish and Portuguese, Leeds University, has been appointed to the chair of Spanish with effect from April.

Sheffield Mr Derek Lovejoy, senior partner in Derek Lovejoy and Partners, has been appointed visiting professor in landscape architecture for three years from January 1.

Bradford A personal research chair in international management and organization has been established with the support of the Berlin and New York publishers, Walter de Gruyter and Co. The new professor, Professor David Hickson, has already taken up his post.

Bath Dr P. Towner, BSc, PhD, has been appointed lecturer in biology at the University of Bath.

Queen's, Belfast Dr Robert Hamilton and Mr John McGuckian have been appointed pro-chancellors. Other appointments: Chair of comparative pathology: John Brain McFerran, ESC (Edin), PhD, DSc (Belf). Senior lectureship in rheumatology: Aubrey Leatham Bell, MD (Belf).

Conferment of titles Emeritus professor: Dr F. C. Clarke, professor of inorganic chemistry, 1966-83, and Dr K.I. Ivin, professor of physical chemistry, 1966-84.

Professorial fellow of the university: Dr D.V. McCaughan, technical director of Marconi Electronic Devices Ltd.

Grants £110,000 from the European Economic Community to Dr B. C. Jones, in association with the University of Warwick, for research on "the immunological and immunological aspects of multiple sclerosis".

Handwritten text in Arabic script at the bottom of the page.

BIRTHS, MARRIAGES, DEATHS

PERSONAL COLUMNS

BIRTHS

ATKIN - On 28th December in North Carolina, Martha (Suzanne) and George, a son, James Stephen...

SILVER ANNIVERSARIES

KADE: BROWN on 30th December 1961 at Congregational Church, Toronto...

DEATHS

ABERHOLM - On 25th December peacefully at home, Dr. Margaret Aberholm...

DEATHS

COLE - On December 27th peacefully at home, Wilfrid, 82 years, after a short illness...

DEATHS

EVERY - On December 26th 1986, John Robert, Wing Commander (retired), O.B.E., aged 72 years...

DEATHS

MAGNITISH - On 26th December 1986, in Edinburgh, Angus Mackay Macdonald...

DEATHS

ROWE - On December 27th peacefully at home, Elizabeth Rowe, 82 years, after a short illness...

ANNOUNCEMENTS

NON RELIGIOUS FUNERALS, Book 22 from the British Humanist Ass'n. (see Charities) 13 Prince of Wales Terr. W6C

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PROF DUMAS MALONE

Dr Dumas Malone, American historian and biographer, died on Dec 29 in Mississippi on the 83rd anniversary of his birth...

PROFESSOR HERBERT MICKMANN

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Archaeology

Early German bell foundry found

By Norman Hammond, Archaeology Correspondent. Six years of digging in the heart of Duisburg, one of West Germany's leading industrial centres, has revealed well preserved remains of the medieval city...

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From MDs to Marketing Sales to Secretaries Accountants to Engineers. The highly successful recruitment section will appear on January 1st 1987 giving over 1 1/4 million readers a head start for the New Year.

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Summer school for would-be agents

Intelligence corps... students...

Barrow Hephburn... takeover...

Blue Arrow's US hat-trick

Pru ADRs

Japan rebuff

Wall Street

Executive Editor Kenneth Fleet

STOCK MARKET FT 30 Share 1307.1 (+5.9) FT-SE 100 1671.6 (+6.5) Bargains 22827 (10000) USM (Datastream) 130.48 (+0.27) THE POUND US Dollar 1.4680 (+0.0100) W German mark 2.8523 (-0.0141) Trade-weighted 88.9 (-0.1)

Takeover help for Barrow

Barrow Hephburn, the special chemicals and engineering company...

Texas Air wins

Shareholders of the financially troubled People Express have approved a \$115 million merger with Texas Air...

British Gas pressed to buy from UK

The Government is likely to argue forcefully that British Gas should buy as much of its supplies as possible from the British sector of the North Sea...

Blue Arrow's US hat-trick

Mr Tooy Berry's fast growing Blue Arrow employment agency has clinched his third big acquisition in the United States...

WALL STREET 181 Stock Market 19 C News 18 Times 19 Money Markets 28 Unit Trusts 29 Foreign Exchange 18 Commodities 29 Traded Options 28 US Prices 29 Comment 19 Share Prices 21

£300m claim against Government

Banks sue on tin collapse

A group of banks is to bring claims of more than £300 million against the Government for its role in the tin crisis. Three banks - Kleinwort Benson, Australia and New Zealand Bank and Arbuthnot Latham Bank - have issued writs against the Government...

500 gas investors will not lose out

More than 500 investors in British Gas who sold their shares through a grey market securities dealer which was forced to stop trading by the Department of Trade and Industry will not lose their money.

British Aerospace wins £90m orders

Aircraft orders worth £90 million announced yesterday by British Aerospace includes a £40 million boost for its Jetstream 31 light commuter aircraft which promises to take it just about past the break-even point and into profitability...

British Gas pressed to buy from UK

The Government is likely to argue forcefully that British Gas should buy as much of its supplies as possible from the British sector of the North Sea to create jobs in the offshore construction industry.

City & Foreign transforms for £6m takeover

City and Foreign, part of Mr David Stevens' Montagu Investment Management group, is shedding its investment trust status as part of a £6 million takeover of Language School Holdings.



Sir Ernest Harrison: 'Vodafone outstandingly successful'

Racal pays £110m to own Vodafone

Racal Electronics is taking 100 per cent control of Vodafone, its cellular radio network, through the £160.85 million (£110 million) acquisition of the 15 per cent stake held by Millicom of the United States...

City & Foreign transforms for £6m takeover

City and Foreign, part of Mr David Stevens' Montagu Investment Management group, is shedding its investment trust status as part of a £6 million takeover of Language School Holdings.

M&S expands out of Canada Sparks fly in to US

Marks and Spencer, which has 250 stores in Canada, is dipping a toe in the US market with four outlets in shopping malls in New York State. Three are expected to be trading by the spring.

Ansbacher 'no loss' claim over Guinness stock

Henry Ansbacher, the merchant bank, believed its clients would be indemnified against any loss when they purchased Guinness shares from Morgan Grenfell shortly before the end of the takeover battle for control of Distillers.

Dollar falls under yen pressure

The dollar came under new pressure yesterday in the wake of remarks by Mr Satoshi Sumita, the Governor of the Bank of Japan.

Oil prices stay below \$18 target

Oil prices remained below the new Opec target price of \$18 a barrel yesterday, with small volumes of North Sea oil changing hands at between \$17.30 and \$17.75 a cargo.

MARKET SUMMARY

Table with columns: MAIN PRICE CHANGES, STOCK MARKETS, INTEREST RATES, CURRENCIES, GOLD, NORTH SEA OIL

M&S expands out of Canada

Sparks fly in to US

Marks and Spencer, which has 250 stores in Canada, is dipping a toe in the US market with four outlets in shopping malls in New York State. Three are expected to be trading by the spring.

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WALL STREET

New York (Reuters) - Wall Street closed on a moderate volume in early trading yesterday, following the bond market on a downward path. The trading pace was expected to improve from Friday's post-Christmas lull but analysts were generally expecting an uneventful week. The Dow Jones industrial average fell 5.20 to 1,925.20 at one stage when the transport indicator was down 2.18 to 817.47 and the utilities average down 1.21 to 208.26. Declining shares led advancing issues by two to one. The broader New York Stock Exchange composite index slipped 0.33 to 140.81 while Standard & Poor's composite index fell 0.58 to 246.34.

Table with columns for Dec 28, Dec 29, Dec 30, Dec 31, Dec 28, Dec 29, Dec 30, Dec 31. Lists various stocks and their price changes.

Japan prepares for stern budget today

From David Watts Tokyo



Yasuhiro Nakasone: under pressure from opposition

Japan will today introduce an austere budget after its most comprehensive tax revision since the war. The Japanese await the budget as the rest of the world looks to Japan to stimulate its economy to take up the slack in the global economy. The most important tax reform is the elimination of tax exemption on small savings and the break-up of the postal savings system which should free a large amount of savers' money which has been so important in developing Japanese industries since the war. The proposed sales tax is getting a hot reception from the opposition, which began its attack with a series of visits by its leaders to the office of the Prime Minister, Mr Yasuhiro Nakasone. The government has apparently abandoned its hope of ridding itself of deficit financing in a 54,101 billion yen budget with increased treasury loan and investment programmes which will probably help to boost the domestic economy to what the government hopes will be 3.5 per cent real growth next year, led by domestic demand. The Japanese-style value-

Whisky will be known as Scotch, but the tax on it will still be seven times that levied on its rival Japanese "spirits". The Japanese government's chief tax expert, Mr Sadanori Yamanaoka, a man not known for his humility, is unrepentant: "The EEC did not ask for the same monetary value but said it should be treated on an equal basis with the Japanese product... It (Japanese whisky) may continue to be a barrier to expanded sales of Scotch."

He gave this warning: "Japan is at long last awake. Japan is at long last on its feet. And the bluff in diplomatic relations with Japan will no longer be usable. Japan became an ordinary member of the world community and will behave as such. In other words, it will become a formidable partner in any discussion." The tax reform, which will simplify the system from 1988, is designed to be revenue neutral with tax cuts for corporations and wealthier individuals balancing tax increases, which include 5 per cent VAT, from which 40 items will be exempt. The budget holds spending to just 0.02 per cent above that of the current year.

Changes in liquor tax are of particular interest to the European Economic Community. Under the proposals, which are unlikely to satisfy the EEC and which must be approved by the Diet next month, the government plans to abolish the grading system for whisky, as demanded by the EEC, by the simple method of reclassifying all domestically-produced whisky, which the EEC did not regard as such, as spirits.

COMPANY NEWS

RADIANT METAL FINISHING: Half-year to Aug 31. Interim dividend 1p, payable on Jan 16. Turnover £733,100 (£663,937). Pretax profit £90,125 (£174,490). Earnings per share 4.28p (8.59p). MONKS & CRANE: Contracts have been exchanged for the purchase of Sargeants Tool Stores. The price will be based on the net assets and will be £92,000 in cash and £200,000 in loan notes and a further £108,000 in cash next March. READICUT INTERNATIONAL: The acquisition of F Drake (Fibres) has been granted to the executors of J Hoyle who held 10 per cent of Drake's capital and this holding has been purchased for £1.25 million in cash. FASEION & GENERAL INVESTMENT: Six months to Sept 30. Interim dividend 10p (same). Pretax revenue £311,000 (£343,000). Earnings per share 13.8p (14.5p). SUTCLIFFE, SPEAKMAN: Turnover £8.55 million (£7.94 million) for the half-year to Sept 30. Pretax profit £302,000 (£270,000). Earnings per share (fully diluted) 2.2p (nil). EUSTON CENTRE PROPERTIES: Six months to September 30 (figures in £000). Net revenue from properties 4,610 (4,473), interest receivable 300 (458), interest payable 968 (953), pretax profit 3,902 (3,571). AJ WORTHINGTON: Half year to September 30. Turnover £1,761,000 (£682,000), pretax profit £48,000 (£49,000 loss), tax £5,000 (nil), eps 0.8p (1.0p loss). The group's turnover has increased as a result of the activities of WH White and Son, manufacturers of knitwear and other clothing.

APPOINTMENTS

HDA Forgings: Mr Peter Masters has been named as company sales and marketing director and Mr Charles Anderson director and general manager of the blade forge division. Massey-Ferguson Tractors and Farm Equipment: Mr John Sword is now president. Glaxo: Dr Richard Sykes has been appointed chief executive of Glaxo Group Research Limited. Dr J Barrie Ward, director of microbiology, has joined the board of Glaxo Group Research. The Union Discount Company of London: Mr WB Carmichael becomes a director. Redland: Mr Christopher May will become financial director in March. Harrison Industries: M Jean-Claude Canari is made a director. Farr Europe: Mr Don Parker becomes manufacturing director. Newcastle Building Society: Mr E A Cowan has been made deputy chief executive. Lease Management Services: Mr Alastair Lawson has been appointed joint managing director and Mr David Deacon, chief accountant and

MONEY MARKETS AND GOLD

Base Rates % Clearing Banks 11 3 month 7-7.5 6 month 6-6.5 12 month 5-5.5 Discount Market Loans % Overnight High 11 Low 10 Week End 10 Treasury Bills (Discount %) 2 month 10% 3 month 10.1% 6 month 10.2% Prime Bank Bills (Discount %) 1 month 10.1% 3 month 10.2% 6 month 10.3% Trade Bills (Discount %) 1 month 11% 3 month 11.1% 6 month 11.2% Interbank (%) Overnight close 11% close 10% 1 week 11% 11.1% 1 month 11% 11.1% 3 month 11% 11.1% 6 month 11% 11.1% Local Authority Deposits (%) 2 days 10% 7 days 10% 1 month 10% 3 month 11% 6 month 11% Local Authority Bonds (%) 1 month 11% 11.1% 3 month 11% 11.1% 6 month 11% 11.1% 12 month 11% 11.1% Sterling CDs (%) 1 month 11% 11.1% 3 month 11% 11.1% 6 month 11% 11.1% 12 month 11% 11.1% Dollar CDs (%) 1 month 6.25-6.50 3 month 6.50-6.80 6 month 6.25-6.50

EURO MONEY DEPOSITS %

1 month 7-7.5 3 month 6-6.5 6 month 5-5.5 12 month 4-4.5 18 month 3-3.5 24 month 2-2.5 36 month 1-1.5 48 month 0.5-1 60 month 0-0.5

BULLION

Gold \$389.25-389.75 (London per oz, ex wt) \$387.00-390.00 (COMEX, 250kg) Sovereign (new, ex wt) \$220.00-220.50 (250kg-250kg) Platinum \$1,200-1,210 (250g) Silver \$3.25-3.31 (250g-3.75)

EGGD

Fixed Rate Sterling Export Finance Scheme IV Average reference rate for 1 month period November 1, 1985 to November 28, 1986 inclusive: 11.248 per cent.

STERLING SPOT AND FORWARD RATES

Table with columns for Market rates, Forward rates, and Sterling index. Lists various currencies and their rates.

OTHER STERLING RATES

Table with columns for Currency, Rate, and Date. Lists various currencies and their rates.

DOLLAR SPOT RATES

Table with columns for Currency, Rate, and Date. Lists various currencies and their rates.

CANADIAN PRICES

Table with columns for Stock Name, Price, and Change. Lists various Canadian stocks and their prices.

RECENT ISSUES

Table with columns for Company Name, Price, and Issue Date. Lists various companies and their recent issues.

TRADITIONAL OPTIONS

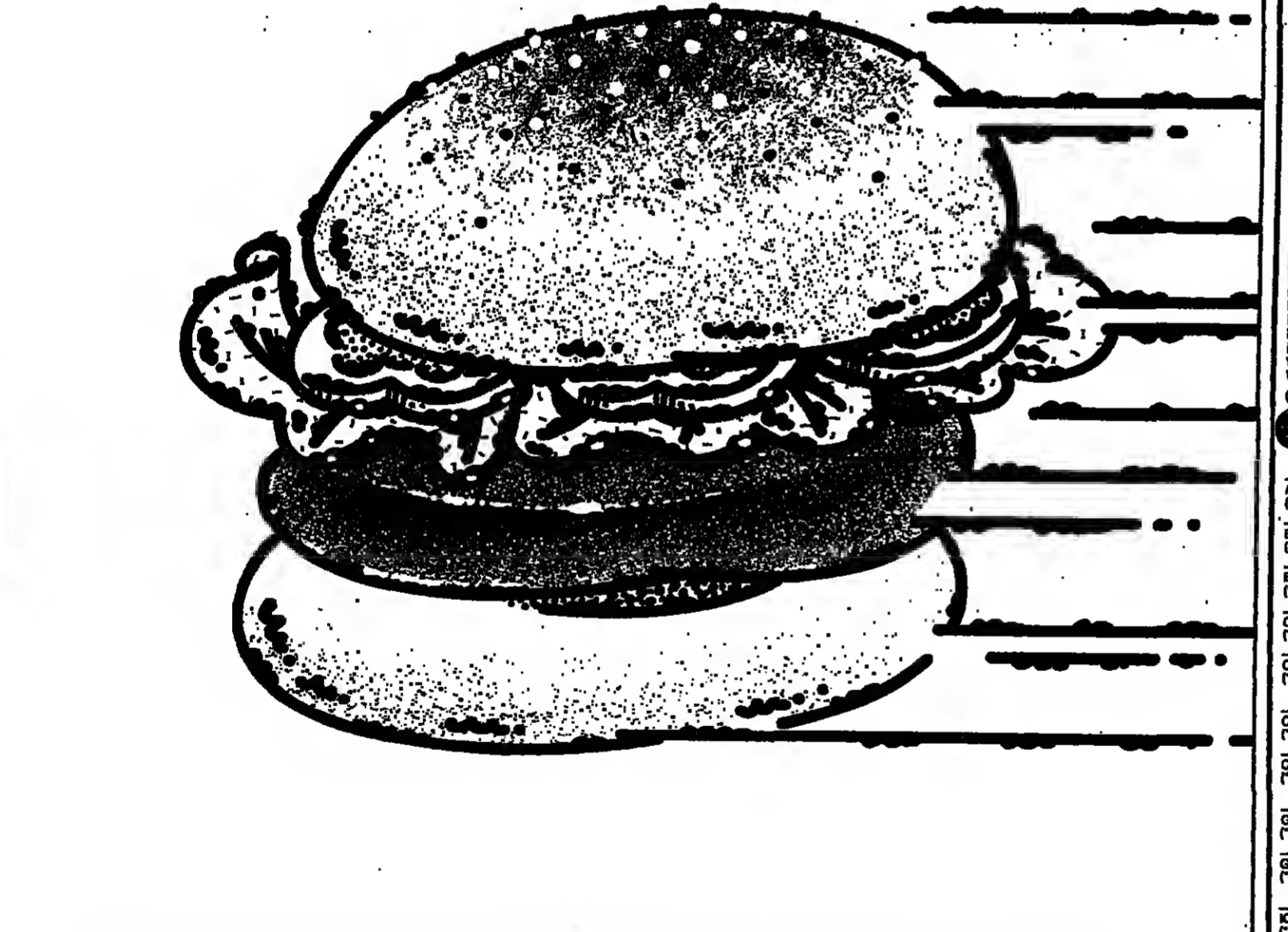
Table with columns for Company Name, Price, and Issue Date. Lists various companies and their traditional options.

LONDON FINANCIAL FUTURES

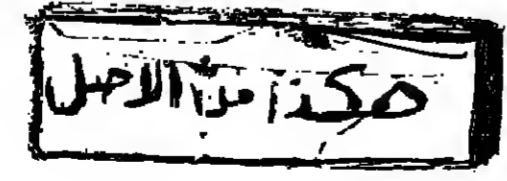
Table with columns for Contract Name, Price, and Issue Date. Lists various financial futures contracts.

LONDON TRADED OPTIONS

Table with columns for Contract Name, Price, and Issue Date. Lists various traded options contracts.



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STOCK MARKET

Traders fear oil prices may fall again if Saudis unload reserves

By Michael Clark

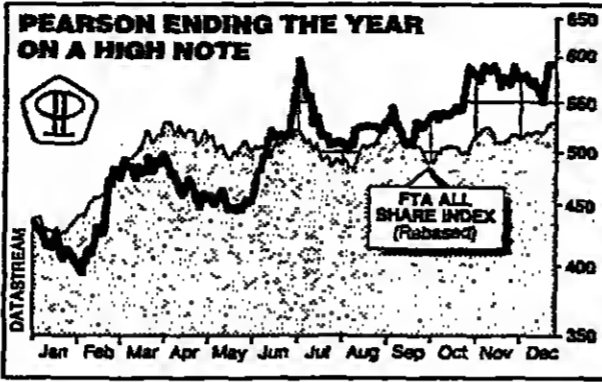
Fears that Saudi Arabia may be planning to unload its huge oil reserves on the world market in the new year have led to speculation that Opec may have to consider another cut in production if it hopes to maintain prices at about \$18 a barrel.

Saudi Arabia is estimated to have about 60 million barrels of oil stored in tankers around the world and it could wreck Opec efforts to boost the price of crude oil if it suddenly starts to flood on to the market.

Mr Philip Kapadia, oil analyst with Raphael Zorn, the broker, says the Saudis hope to sell their reserves before the market is tested in February and this, combined with a mild winter and stalemate in the Iran-Iraq war could bring the price of crude oil back to about \$15.

Earlier this month, Opec oil ministers agreed to cut production to 15.8 million barrels a day. Saudi Arabia was allocated a production quota of 4.1 million barrels. But Mr Kapadia warns that Opec's efforts might not be enough and another reduction of at least 1 million barrels a day may be required. This is likely to be bad news for oil shares which were enjoying a bout of selective support yesterday.

Among the leaders, BP firming 6p to 72 1/2p, Britoil 2p to 17 1/2p, and Shell a similar amount to 98 1/2p. Meanwhile, Mr Kapadia regards the onshore operators as



Times and Lazard Brothers merchant bank, looks like ending the old year on a high note. The shares, which have been the source of persistent takeover speculation in recent months, surged back through the 600p level to close 1 1/2p higher at 60 1/2p - just 6p below their peak.

Once again, the pundits are talking of a bid for the company in the new year with Hutchison Whampoa, headed by Li Ka-shing, one of Hong Kong's most powerful businessmen, still topping the list of likely predators.

In September, Hutchison announced it had bought a near-5 per cent stake in Pearson, worth £50 million, and expressed an interest in increasing its holding and creating commercial links between the two companies. At the time, Li Ka-shing said he had no interest in making a full bid for Pearson, but Pearson said it would "not

than expected and analysts have already hoisted their profit forecasts for the year to £175 million to about £190 million.

However, suggestions that BTR will launch a knockout bid of 750p a share appear to be wildly optimistic and there is growing speculation in the market that its offer may be less than 700p a share. BTR finished 1p firmer at 269p. The closing date for the bid is January 24.

Guinness recovered from an early setback following more disclosures over the weekend about the latest twists and turns in the Department of Trade and Industry's investigation into the company's affairs.

The DTI is now looking at evidence provided by Guinness's own financial adviser.

The recovery continues as the First National Finance Corp. rescued from the fringe banking crisis in 1975. Full-year figures expected on Monday show pretax profits up from £22 million to £34 million, where the shares, unchanged at 20 1/2p, yield a healthy 5.6 per cent.

Morgan Grenfell, about a parcel of 2.1 million shares bought by another merchant bank, Henry Ansbacher, at prices above the current ruling market price. At one stage, the Guinness share price came within a whisker of its low before rallying to close 9p dearer on the day at 290p following news of a successful outcome to a law suit it had brought in the US and an oed year press tip.

Morgan Grenfell's own share price, which has been under a cloud since the inquiry into Guinness was announced, suffered a relapse, falling 9p to 38 1/2p, having hit a low of 35p earlier this month.

That compares with the 500p the shares were floated at this summer. But Henry Ansbacher shrugged off the controversy, firming 0.5p to 84.5p.

Shareholders of Mitchell Cotts, the engineer-to-transport-and-trading group, must still be hoping for a prospectus new year. Typool, the container and trailer retail group, headed by the ambitious Mr Robert Montague, has built up a near-5 per cent stake and is mentioned as a likely bidder for the remainder.

Last year Mitchell Cotts shareholders saw pretax profits of the group for the year to June plunge from £12 million to just £3,000. Mitchell Cotts ended the session 1.25p dearer at 66.25p where it is valued at £64 million.

ALPHA STOCKS

These prices are as at 6.45pm

Table with columns for 1986 High/Low/Company, Price Bid/Offer/Change, Gross Div Payout, and 1986 High/Low/Company, Price Bid/Offer/Change, Gross Div Payout. Lists various companies like Allied-Lyons, ASDA-MPI, BAT, etc.

TEMPUS

Goliath Courtaulds needs a bigger sword to beat David

Courtaulds is out of practice in the corporate arena as its bid for Fothergill & Harvey clearly shows. Unless it wants to be billed as the Goliath in this encounter, it is going to have to sharpen up its ideas. There is a very half-hearted feel to its £2.2 million offer.

The predator is hampered by the fact that its shares are selling on about half the prey's rating but the lack of a straight share alternative to the cash-loan offer has not won over Fothergill shareholders.

Their response last week was a unanimous thumbs down - only 0.94 per cent accepted - so the offer has been extended until January 30. Courtaulds owns only 0.8 per cent of Fothergill.

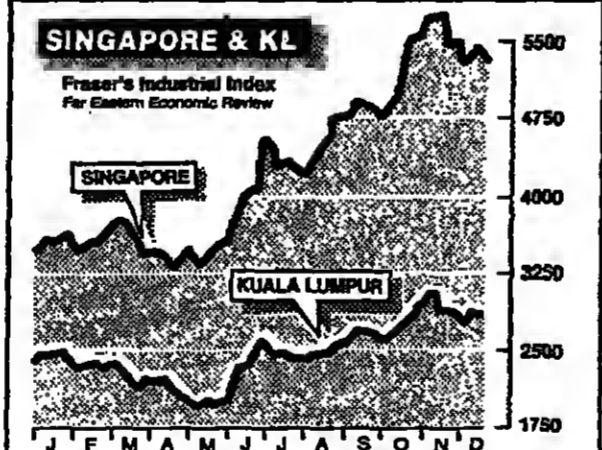
Courtaulds' motives are not hard to fathom. There is industrial logic in buying into the fast-growing area of advanced materials while engineering fabrics and engineered surfaces fit well into the group's portfolio.

Both companies have been striving to move away from the vicissitudes of the textile industry. Fothergill, helped by its size, has, however, been able to explore many more avenues.

But the strain of having to finance heavy research and development has made itself felt on the smaller company. And given the long lead time involved in developing products, decisions on expenditure allocation have been hard to make. Espotic considerations have frequently had to vie with commercial ones.

Courtaulds argues that Fothergill's style of operation would thrive within the cocoon of a larger organization. Fothergill hotly disagrees, saying its skills would wither within an organization geared to quantity rather than quality.

The "poison pill" - a joint venture with the American company Cyanamid with the option to buy out the



pure industrial index moved ahead by about 15 per cent during the year, this was a modest advance compared to the impressive showing from Singapore's stock market, which increased by more than 50 per cent.

But indications are that the imbalance will soon be corrected.

The rubber price has risen from 1.83 ringgits a kilogramme (48p per 2.20lbs) to 2.16 ringgits since the end of last year, while palm oil has moved up sharply since August from 450 ringgits a tonne (£18.26) to 700 ringgits.

Present prices are slightly below the levels achieved in recent weeks. But although they are well below their peaks of 1981 and 1984, when rubber and palm oil stood at 3.04 ringgits and 2,000 ringgits respectively, analysts are not expecting prices to drift off further.

This relative stability in commodity prices should help to underpin a recovery in the economy.

The reason given for the feeling of dependency in Kuala Lumpur is lack of confidence. Some banks have accumulated impressive portfolios of bad debts, while the property market, another indicator of sentiment, is

UP IN SMOKE

A fraught new year - likely to bring squeezed profit margins and the most intense marketing battle for years - lies ahead for British cigarette manufacturers.

New pricing tactics have introduced a fourth sector to an increasingly fragmented market while increasing the possibility of an ever-widening price war.

The room for manoeuvre by manufacturers trying to seize more market share through lower pricing is also tight. This is because a substantial tax increase in the next Budget could push many premium brands over the psychological level of £1.30 for 20, forcing manufacturers within a few months with a far tougher selling climate in which price will assume even more significance for the smoker.

Another key factor is a sharper rate of decline in sales. In October there was an annual decline of 6 per cent, according to trade estimates, although there has been some recovery since.

But the present sales level, put by many in the industry at about 4 per cent lower than last year, is still double the rate of decline seen over the past few years.

The British manufacturers are also under pressure from cheap imports. These have risen from 7 per cent of the market a year ago to 10 per cent. Tobacco manufacturers with spare capacity, mostly West German, have been supplying mainly own-label products for supermarkets and other retail chains which have been selling at prices about 20p below the main branded cigarettes.

The manufacturers blame rises in British taxation for treating the pricing conditions in which the cheaper cigarettes are thriving. But there is also pressure from smaller British manufacturers like the London Tobacco Company and the Manchester Tobacco Company which are also

COMMENT Kenneth Fleet

Range of Guinness inquiry widening

Through a series of not disinterested leaks, confessions and publicised statements, the Department of Trade and Industry's inquiry into Guinness is beginning to have shape. It is fairly clear that the inspectors have concentrated on the nature and significance of dealings in Guinness and Distillers shares during the crucial period between March and April 18, the date when the Guinness bid for Distillers, in competition with Argyll, finally succeeded.

The sale, or placing, during the battle of some 2.15 million Guinness shares by Morgan Grenfell, Guinness's principal financial adviser at the time, with clients of Henry Ansbacher, is, to say the least, interesting, especially in the light of the subsequent purchase, after the battle had been won and lost, of the same shares by Down Nominees, a subsidiary of Ansbacher, at a price noticeably higher than the market price at the time.

As the focus of the investigation is narrowing, the range of the inquiry is also, unavoidably, widening. When the DTI inspectors went in on the morning of December 1, they required access to records not only at Guinness but also at firms which were during the bid for Distillers advising or acting for Guinness, chiefly Morgan Grenfell, Cazenove, Wood Mackenzie and Robert Fleming. The trails cannot in their nature stop at any of these points - as the statement volunteered to the DTI inspectors by Richard Fenhalls, Ansbacher's chief executive, shows.

Guinness is finding itself increasingly isolated. Morgan Grenfell has endeavoured to put as much distance as

it conceivably can from the client for whom it fought a long and bloody battle. The company, and in particular the chairman and chief executive, Ernest Saunders, is being subjected to a covert public relations campaign of misinformation and damaging innuendo. In Scotland great pressure is being put on the two new Guinness non-executive directors with Scottish backgrounds, Sir Norman Macfarlane and Ian Chapman, to resign, from the Guinness board, preferably in dramatic fashion.

Judgement can be fairly made only when the inspectors have completed their report. Meanwhile, the debate on the broader issues raised by the Guinness affair will, and should, continue. Two stand out:

First, The techniques (legal if unlikely to command universal approval) for the successful conduct of contested takeover bids, which are becoming better understood, rapidly, in industry, are such that it may be questioned whether the fate, ie the ownership, of major companies should be determined by their use. Takeovers, in a sense, are too easy.

Second, The close relationships, partly because of their large size and limited number, between the major City firms - merchant banks, stockbrokers, solicitors and other professional advisers - put enormous strains on their ability to act independently in the interest of a client.

The conflicts of interest of the kind coming to light in the Guinness investigation put a question mark not only over individual firms but over the system itself.

Japan lays dollar low

When even the Japanese talk of a lower dollar who is to ginsay that? Not yesterday's dyspeptic foreign exchange markets. After the remarks by Satoshi Sumita, the Japanese central bank governor, that a dollar rate of ¥159 to ¥160 would be acceptable they promptly marked the dollar down to the lower end of the indicated range from the previous close of ¥161.95.

In relatively thin markets between the two holiday periods the movement is probably less significant than it seems. But combined with concern about tomorrow's US trade figures and general gloom about American economic prospects in the new year Mr Sumita's remarks made for a decidedly weak dollar.

The central bank governor's intervention marks another chapter in the somewhat uneven relationship of the US-Japan exchange rate pact. So far, Japan seems to have gained more from the deal than the US, having done relatively little to reflate its economy and enjoying a more stable dollar-yen rate for its exports. But yesterday's movement, if maintained, will make it that bit harder for Japanese exporters.

Elsewhere in foreign exchange markets the pound moved erratically, first falling with the dollar and then recovering to close just 0.1 below its previous close at 68.9 in terms of the trade weighted index. Against the dollar it was more than a cent higher at \$1.4680.

The main immediate influences on sterling are the oil price and the opinion polls. Both are going sterling's way. Oil yesterday rose another 30 cents to \$17.60 a barrel.

The polls, too, are reassuring the market. The most recent evidence suggests Mrs Thatcher has every chance of being returned in the coming election which the markets equate with relatively sound finance and less uncertainty.

This degree of support for sterling has only been purchased at the cost of very high interest rates. If international investors feel happier with a Conservative government that does not mean that they feel comfortable with a fuzzy monetary policy and uncertain fiscal policy. What would really reassure them is for Britain to become a full member of the European Monetary System. The fact that this is very unlikely leaves that bit harder for Japanese exporters.

Embattled tobacco industry weighs up its strategy

By Derek Harris Industrial Editor

A fraught new year - likely to bring squeezed profit margins and the most intense marketing battle for years - lies ahead for British cigarette manufacturers.

New pricing tactics have introduced a fourth sector to an increasingly fragmented market while increasing the possibility of an ever-widening price war.

The room for manoeuvre by manufacturers trying to seize more market share through lower pricing is also tight. This is because a substantial tax increase in the next Budget could push many premium brands over the psychological level of £1.30 for 20, forcing manufacturers within a few months with a far tougher selling climate in which price will assume even more significance for the smoker.

Another key factor is a sharper rate of decline in sales. In October there was an annual decline of 6 per cent, according to trade estimates, although there has been some recovery since.

But the present sales level, put by many in the industry at about 4 per cent lower than last year, is still double the rate of decline seen over the past few years.

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The manufacturers blame rises in British taxation for treating the pricing conditions in which the cheaper cigarettes are thriving. But there is also pressure from smaller British manufacturers like the London Tobacco Company and the Manchester Tobacco Company which are also

UP IN SMOKE

Table with columns: Jan 1, Retail price (pence), Tax Costs (inc VAT) profit. Lists prices for 1978, 1979, 1980, 1981, 1982, 1983, 1984, 1985, 1986, 1988 (Mar 21).

Source: Tobacco Advisory Council

supplying the own-label market, including Victoria Wine, the Allied-Lyons off-licence subsidiary, Britain's biggest cigarette retailer.

These variously-sourced lower price cigarettes have probably moved in a year from an overall market share of 9.5 per cent to 12.5 per cent.

So far in this price war Philip Morris, maker of Marlboro, the world's best-selling cigarette, has cut 5p off its king-size pack to bring the price down to £1.45, with lower-tar brands also reduced. It has also cut 4p off a pack of Raffles, its most recently launched brand, which had been selling at £1.44 for 20.

Philip Morris, which claims a 2.5 per cent share for the Marlboro and a similar share for Raffles, imposed the cuts expecting to win a bigger market share while not expecting to provoke the bigger selling brands into retaliation because price-cutting for them is more costly.

Of the five best-selling cigarettes, Gallaher's Benson and Hedges, which has a recommended retail price of £1.53, has more than 17 per cent of the market. Imperial Tobacco's Superkings (£1.51 for 20) has 6.3 per cent. Gallaher's Silk Cut, market leader in lower tar, 6 per cent. Imperial's Regal king-size 5.6 per cent and Imperial's John Player Special king-size 5.4 per cent.

A full percentage point market share in the cigarette

market is worth about £54 million in annual sales.

Imperial, part of Hanson Trust and Britain's biggest tobacco manufacturer, however, has cut 5p off John Player Special, reducing the price to £1.45.

It says that, with a glossier pack, this is part of a relaunch strategy for the brand to bolster Imperial's overall market share which has been shrinking for several years. It is also introducing a longer-length John Player Special at £1.47.

Competitors see it as a marketing tactic to improve sales for a brand which has lost its momentum.

Although there are no signs that Imperial is planning price cuts on any other brands, it is, given the John Player Special market share, an aggressive move which its other main competitors will find hard to ignore.

Rothman, whose brands include Dunhill and Peter Stuyvesant as well as the Rothman label, is still considering the situation and does not expect to make a statement before the new year.

Gallaher, the second-biggest British manufacturer, says it has no immediate plans for price changes. It argues that the Imperial move does not necessarily upset the whole market.

There has already been some other price repositioning of brands as the threat of the cheaper imports and own-label brands has grown. The big manufacturers have to some extent been plugging the gap between the cheap cigarettes and the main brands.

The market could end up with four distinctly priced sectors, ranging from the cheap imports and own-labels, through the Lambert and Butler segment and the new John Player-Marlboro sector to the premium brands.

If, as seems likely, the Chancellor brings in another hefty tax increase on cigarettes in the coming Budget - it was an extra 11p a pack last time - the fear is that cheap imports

could grow further, and that would mean the British manufacturers could be faced with more closures and job cuts.

Six tobacco factories have been closed in three years, and the Tobacco Advisory Council, the manufacturers' trade body, expects that jobs, which numbered 27,500 in 1984, are likely to be down to 20,000 at some stage next year.

Earlier this month, Imperial, which has closed a factory at Sirling and stopped cigarette production in Glasgow, announced a further loss of 350 mainly administrative jobs, bringing the total of job cuts over the next 12 months to 550.

Price-cutting is bound to squeeze profit margins. This will make the manufacturers look even harder at factory capacity and workforce levels.

It is almost certain that in January they will forgo what has become almost a regular price increase, usually 2p a pack, matched by a similar increase in the summer.

It looks like a bumper ride from now on for all the big tobacco manufacturers, leaving one big question mark on strategy. None of the big British makers has yet moved to supply the own-label market. As things get tougher that could still come.

Table titled 'BASE LENDING RATES' listing rates for various banks: ABN (11.00%), Adm & Company (11.00%), BCC (11.00%), Citibank Savings (12.45%), Consolidated Credit (11.00%), Co-operative Bank (11.00%), C. Hoare & Co. (11.00%), Hong Kong & Shanghai (11.00%), Lloyds Bank (11.00%), Nat Westminster (11.00%), Royal Bank of Scotland (11.00%), TSB (11.00%), Citibank NA (11.00%).

Do Offer Chng Yld

Main table of investment trusts with columns for Name, Offer, Change, Yield, and various performance metrics. Includes sections for UK Unit Trusts, Overseas Unit Trusts, and various fund categories.

UNLISTED SECURITIES

Table of unlisted securities with columns for Name, Price, Offer, Change, Yield, and other financial data.

INVESTMENT TRUSTS

Table of investment trusts with columns for Name, Price, Offer, Change, Yield, and other financial data.

COMMODITIES

Table of commodity prices for various goods like oil, metals, and agricultural products.

FINANCIAL TRUSTS

Table of financial trusts with columns for Name, Price, Offer, Change, Yield, and other financial data.



Starling straightened the London markets yesterday. One exception was Aluminium which was added by a fall of 1.20 tonnes in LME stocks. The market also saw dollar-biased buying following a break above chart resistance at \$1150. Comment by GNI.

Table of commodity prices for Aluminum, Soyabean, and other goods.

Table of commodity prices for London Metal Exchange, Copper Grade A, and other metals.

Table of commodity prices for Live Cattle, Pig Meat, and other livestock.

Table of commodity prices for London Grain Futures, Wheat, and other agricultural products.

Vertical text on the right edge of the page, possibly a page number or reference.

STOCK EXCHANGE PRICES

Turnover at low ebb

ACCOUNT DAYS: Dealings began on December 22. Dealings end January 9. Contango day January 12. Settlement day January 19.

Where stocks have only one price quoted, these are middle prices taken daily at 5pm. Yield, change and P/E ratio are calculated on the middle price

Portfolio Gold

From your portfolio card check your eight share price movements, on this page only. Add them up to give you your overall total and check this against the daily dividend figure. If it matches, you have won outright or a share of the total daily prize money stated. If you are a winner follow the claim procedure on the back of your card. You must always have your card available when claiming.

Table with 3 columns: No., Company, Group. Lists various companies like Oxford Instruments, British & Colonial, etc.

Please take account of any minus signs

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Portfolio Gold

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Ex dividend a Ex all b Forecast dividend a Interim payment passed b Price at suspension c Dividend and yield exclude a special payment d Pre-charge figures e Forecast earnings a Ex other f Ex rights a Ex scrip or share split f Tax-free No significant data.

Big bids take the limelight

Takeover battles boosted the ranks of stock market front-runners as losers slipped on lower oil prices

This has proved to be a year of more spectacular leaders than laggards on the stock market. Hardly surprising, given that the market is ending 1986 much higher than when it started and the FT All-Share index is nearly back at its year's high. Top of the leaders' list is our very own News International, owner of *The Times*, *Sunday Times*, *The Sun* and *News of the World*. The restricted voting shares registered a spectacular 247 per cent gain in an extremely tight market. The move to a high technology printing plant at Wapping in East London, shedding several thousand print jobs, helped to boost NI's profits in the half year to June 30 by 67 per cent, before taking into account the £66.3 million exceptional costs of the move.

Next came Pentland Industries with a 242 per cent advance, the second successive year of heady growth. Pentland's star performer was Reebok, a 37 per cent owned American associate which makes the Yuppies' favourite jogging shoe. It contributed 85 per cent of Pentland's pretax profits in the half year to June 30.

Mr Alan Sugar's Amstrad Consumer Electronics finished third, after a year in which Amstrad took over the

once mighty Sioclar and launched its own, hugely successful IBM compatible personal computer at a highly competitive price.

Amstrad is also part of the consortium which earlier this month won the Direct Broadcasting Satellite contract from the Independent Broadcasting Authority.

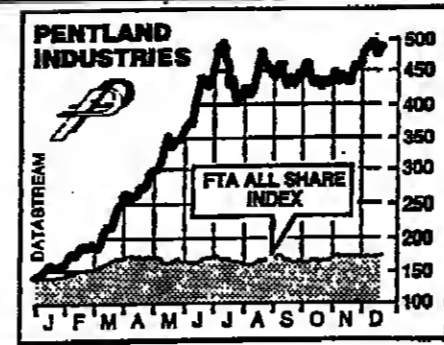
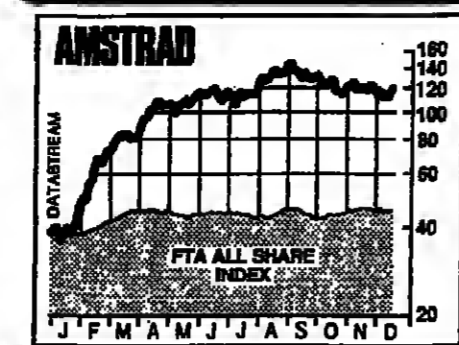
Several of the other winners were on the receiving end of bids. AVI Holdings, which showed a 141 per cent gain, fought off Siebe's £220 million bid, but earned itself a re-rating in the process. Its defence included a forecast of an 80 per cent profit increase in 1986.

Wedgwood was another bid beneficiary. It was taken over by the Irish crystal maker Waterford to save it from the unwanted clutches of London International Group.

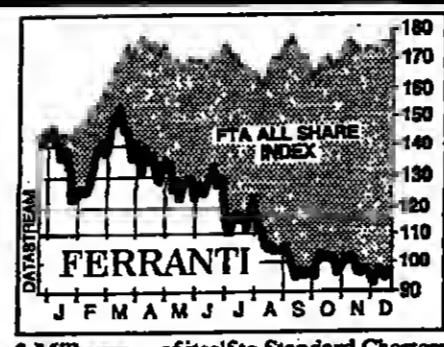
AR, which showed an 86 per cent advance, was the one that nearly got away. It fought off Turner & Newall's bid by the narrowest of squeaks, only to have the escape disallowed by the Takeover Panel. T&N rebid and outbid the rival Hollis Group.

T&N also came out of the experience well, gaining more than its prey at 103 per cent over the year. Pretax profits in the half year to the end of June

FORGING AHEAD



FALLING BEHIND



rose 40 per cent, aided by a fall in asbestos claims.

Other bid situations included McCaughey, the specialist printer taken over by Norton Opax after a hard-fought struggle; Bryant Holdings being bid for by English China Clays; Imperial Continental Gas which has found temporary respite in the Monopolies Commission from a bid by the Barclay brothers and Pilkington Brothers, the glassmaker on the receiving end of a bid from BTR.

Tomer Kemsley & Milbourn, the motor trader and property developer, had a rewarding year under the New Zealander Mr Ron Brierley, who took control in the middle of last year. Drastic slimming action has paid off and the acquisition of Kemsley Motors, which will double TKM's turnover, has yet to be fit.

Other leaders that were out beneficiaries of bids included Abaca, the rapidly expanding financial services group that recently sold a 12 per cent slice

of itself to Standard Chartered Bank.

Rainers, the jeweller, was buoyed by the takeover in July of its rival H Samuel.

Bliss Arrow was similarly boosted by acquisitions both in Britain and, for the first time, in America.

In the laggards list, oil companies stood out as the losers from the drastic fall in oil prices. Several blue chip companies and household names also pepper the list.

Triteo Europe, the oil and gas exploration group, saw its pretax profits fall dramatically in the second half of the year to May 31. London & Scottish Marine Oil's profits also suffered from the slump in oil prices.

CE Heath, the long established Lloyd's broker, managed to end the year down 35 per cent, despite attracting a hostile bid from its fellow broker PWS Holdings. Heath has been losing staff at an alarming rate. Its team of North American brokers went several months ago and this month 28 brokers from the international, marine and, most importantly, aviation divisions walked out to join Citicorp.

Ferranti, the electrical and electronic engineer, upset the market with an unexpected announcement last July of a fall in 1985-86 profits. Interim results announced in November failed to mollify, despite the company's optimistic noises about a record order

book and strong profit growth. Hopes of a bid, which gave some share price support early in the year, were dashed when the Monopolies Commission said no to GEC's bid for Plessey.

Trafalgar House, the property, construction and ship-building group, was hit by the fall in oil prices. In the year to September it wrote off more than £100 million because of its exposure to oil and gas production and the offshore construction industry. Pretax profits only managed a 2 per cent rise to £145.8 million.

Dee Corporation, the super-markets group, went on an extensive buying spree in America and Britain and issued 400 million shares to fund the activity. In March Dee bought Herman's Sporting Goods, the largest retailer of its kind in the US, for £278 million.

I followed this with the acquisition in June of Fine Fare and Shoppers Paradise from Associated British Foods for £686 million. Finally, it added M&H Sporting Goods in the US for £44 million and Medicare in Britain for £20 million.

The glut of paper and fears that organic growth was giving way to acquisition-led growth have caused share price weakness.

Arzma, the food manufacturing group, followed disappointing results for 1985-86 with disappointing interims to September 27, showing pretax profits only 6.5 per cent higher at £8.8 million. The company is suffering from stagnant sales in mature markets and is investigating new projects to take it out of the traditional grocery areas.

Boots, the chemist, has suffered this year despite bid speculation. The £400 million acquisition of Fint, an American manufacturer and distributor of prescription medicines, was not, surprisingly, received. The acquisition involved the largest ever vendor placing in London and the first with 100 per cent clawback for ordinary shareholders.

The drinks and brewing group Guinness also rates as a laggard. Although it won Distillers after a bitter battle with Argyll Group, its stock has fallen after wrangles over who was to be chairman and, worse still, the appointment of a Department of Trade and Industry inquiry into the company over suspected insider trading.

Alison Eadie

News Corp to raise £878m for H&WT bid

Melbourne (Reuters) — Mr Rupert Murdoch's News Corporation said yesterday it would raise Aus\$1.87 billion (£878 million) through the placement of shares or notes and through a bill acceptance-discounting facility if its cash offer for the Herald and Weekly Times was accepted.

News Ltd, its wholly-owned subsidiary, is offering Aus\$12 a share cash or a scrip alternative of two News Corporation shares or two convertible notes for every three H&WT shares.

The offer document said Aus\$750 million would be raised by placing 41.67 million News Corporation shares or convertible notes underwritten by JB Wren and Son and Bache Coris and Carr.

The remaining Aus\$1.12 billion would be raised through a 24-month bill acceptance-discounting facility with optional letters of credit provided by the Commonwealth Bank of Australia, the offer said. The bank planned to syndicate the facility.

News Ltd and News Corporation expect to provide the funds to service the debt from the facility from their own resources, it said. The facility would be refinanced with long-term debt and the amount outstanding would be reduced by Aus\$250 million within six months of the first drawdown, it said.

After conversion of all News Corporation convertible notes, the group's issued capital will rise by 16 per cent if every offerer accepts the cash or by 41 per cent if every offerer takes the alternatives of News Corporation shares or convertible notes.

If the takeover succeeds, H&WT will sell wholly-owned Herald-Sun TV, which has the

licence for channel HSV-7 in Melbourne, and its 59 per cent stake in Television Broadcasters, which owns channel ADS-7 in Adelaide.

The Trade Practices Commission has agreed to allow News Corporation to sell some of its media interests within specified times to meet ownership regulations.

The commission has said that if it is satisfied with the sales agreements and the proposed buyers, it will not object to the H&WT takeover.

It is also seeking an undertaking from Mr Robert Holmes a Court's JN Taylor Holdings that it will not dispatch its proposed offer for H&WT shares until it too satisfies ownership conditions.

JN Taylor, a Bell Group subsidiary, bid Aus\$13 a share with scrip alternatives for H&WT on December 24, three weeks after the News Ltd bid.

Mr Holmes a Court said in Perth yesterday that he expected H&WT to decide on his takeover bid by the end of this week.

Some market analysts believe the H&WT board may recommend both the JN Taylor cash offer and News Corporation's scrip alternative, which at present share prices place a similar value on the H&WT group. Both offers are reduced by a choice of cash, scrip or convertible notes.

Mr Holmes a Court said such a recommendation "would be onerous. If there is not a clear recommendation, we are entitled to withdraw our Aus\$13 a share bid. If there is, we are obliged to proceed."

Both the Taylor counter bid and News Ltd's offer are conditional on a favourable recommendation by the H&WT board.

New ship orders plunge

Paris (Reuters) — The world shipbuilding industry saw a 33 per cent fall in new orders in the first nine months of this year compared with the same period last year, the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development said.

The OECD report showed Europe the hardest hit, with new orders dropping 73 per cent to 499 vessels, against 1,870 in the first nine months of 1985.

This was four points worse

than the 69 per cent fall recorded in the first half of 1986, compared with the same period last year.

Japan's new orders dropped 19.5 per cent to 4,510 vessels against 5,604 at the end of the third quarter in 1985.

West Germany received new orders for 73 vessels, compared with 596 at the same time last year. France had 57 new orders against 251; Italy 18 against 307; and Britain 36 compared with 284.

THE LEADERS

Company	Price (p)	Change (%)	Value £'000	Value £'000
News International	620	247	482,726	1,708,848
Pentland Industries	142	242	192,526	452,510
Amstrad	48	122	207,176	665,144
APV Holdings	245	141	77,665	188,033
Tomer Kemsley	65	153	69,777	164,896
Wedgwood	239	555	108,410	251,748
Jefferson Smurfit	145	330	285,041	653,558
Myson Group	65	147	32,890	118,938
Rainers	117	258	41,113	227,558
Mountleigh Group	510	111	102	135,244
British Vita	131	285	117	99,328
Abaca	30	65	115	32,381
Daily Mail & Gen	113	113	65,468	139,684
Blue Arrow	184	390	112	43,727
IC Gas	298	611	105	385,658
Turner & Newall	84	172	103	96,721
Bernard Matthews	138	288	102	89,878
Fritchard Services	58	117	102	87,027
Regalcan Properties	166	325	96	39,909
Henderson Admin	500	963	93	103,440
Daily Mail A	112	223	90	600
Assoc Newspapers	223	423	89	2760
H Samuel A	81	152	88	66,579
AE	139	258	86	137,521
J Crowther Group	83	153	84	28,895
McConquidale	151	84	77,227	142,481
J Waddington	189	202	84	57,133

Companies capitalized at £100m or more

THE LAGGARDS

Company	Price (p)	Change (%)	Value £'000	Value £'000
Triton Europe	280	138	-51	231,000
CE Heath	683	432	-38	208,308
LASMO	243	159	-35	387,324
Ferranti	144	97	-33	619,272
Diploma	288	213	-26	150,854
Trafalgar House	346	280	-25	1,192,229
Dee Corporation	268	204	-24	1,292,295
Avana Group	589	483	-21	205,879
Ultramar	201	160	-20	548,641
British	208	171	-18	1,045,078
Brammar	323	273	-15	135,022
Caledonia Intv	313	288	-14	302,984
Boots	261	226	-13	1,903,712
Northern Foods	288	248	-13	605,130
European Faries	139	121	-13	310,544
Harris Queensway	231	202	-13	352,668
Guinness	280	280	-13	683,889
Sedgwick Group	353	317	-10	1,059,986
British & Cornin	320	288	-10	655,744
Argyll Group	346	313	-10	691,751
Matthew Hall	154	140	-9	118,826
British Telecom	232	211	-9	13,920m
Laura Ashley	184	168	-9	367,294
Farnell Electronics	211	193	-9	294,721
Lucas Industries	486	456	-6	588,492
Hewlett Sidelley	461	434	-6	808,428
Irish Distillers	265	194	-6	116,146

Companies capitalized at £100m or more

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in Organic Chemistry. A lively interest in the biological sciences will be an asset. For one of the posts, a degree in Biochemistry will be considered as an alternative.

Both positions will have a wide ranging involvement in all aspects of international patent protection relating to the Group's pharmaceuticals and will centre on the preparation and prosecution of patent applications relating to inventions deriving from the research establishments of the Glaxo Group. The whole spectrum of patent work associated with a major pharmaceutical company will be involved. The remuneration and benefits package will reflect the importance of the Patents function within Glaxo.

Please send a detailed CV to Miss Pat Sandy, Senior Personnel Officer, Glaxo Holdings p.l.c., Clarges House, 6-12 Clarges Street, London W1Y 8DH, or telephone 01-493 4060 Ext. 300 for an application form.



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Applications stating age, education, qualifications and experience, together with the names and addresses of two referees to reach me not later than Monday the 12th January 1987.

JEFFERY P. BLACKBURN,
Clerk to the Magistrates' Courts Committee.

Barnsley Magistrates' Court,
Court House,
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MONDAY
Education, University Appointments, Prop & Public School Appointments, Educational Courses, Scholarships and Fellowships, La Crème de la Crème and other social appointments.

TUESDAY
Computer Hardware Computer Appointments with editorial, Legal Appointments, Solicitors, Commercial Lawyers, Legal Officers, Private & Public Practice, Legal La Crème for top legal Public Sector Appointments.

WEDNESDAY
La Crème de la Crème and other social appointments, Property, Residential, Town & Country, Overseas, Resorts, with editorial, Antiques and Collectables.

THURSDAY
General Appointments, Management and Executive appointments with editorial, La Crème de la Crème and other social appointments.

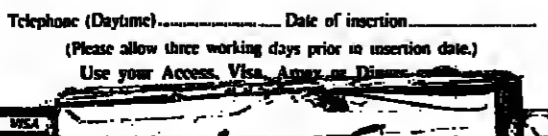
FRIDAY
Motor: A complete car buyer's guide with editorial, Business to Business: Business opportunities, Franchises etc. with editorial, Restaurant Guide. (Monthly)

SATURDAY
Overseas and UK Holidays, Villas/Cottages, Hotels, Flights etc.

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vs Corp to se £878m H&WT bid

By a Special Correspondent... Somerset have left the door open for Ian Botham to reconsider his decision about leaving the county in protest over the sackings of Viv Richards and Joel Garner.

Atkinson and Somers set to cling to faint hopes of recapturing Botham

Somerset have left the door open for Ian Botham to reconsider his decision about leaving the county in protest over the sackings of Viv Richards and Joel Garner.

CRICKET Rain holds key to Test result

Nagpur, India (Reuters) - The bad weather which disrupted the second day's play in the second Test between India and Sri Lanka could hold the key to the outcome of the match when play resumes today after yesterday's rest day.

Ginny Leng and Murphy Himself combine to produce all that is best in sport A purple patch of pure pleasure



This is the time of year when wise people take the top off the Glenmorangie bottle and talk about sport. Discussing anything over Glenmorangie tends to bathe the subject in a purple glow.



Togetherness: Leng and Murphy Himself welding a winning combination at Burghley

cheer and weep and drink champagne from the bucket instead she smiled and said she was pleased for the horse. Non-horsey people have an idea that riding horses is about domination. It is not. It is about co-operation.

Edwards the pioneer has long way to go... Obersdorf, West Germany, (Reuters) - Eddie Edwards, the first Briton to take part in a World Cup event, failed to reach the distance at which yesterday's practice starts in today's opening contest in the annual Four Hills series.

SKI JUMPING

Edwards the pioneer has long way to go... Obersdorf, West Germany, (Reuters) - Eddie Edwards, the first Briton to take part in a World Cup event, failed to reach the distance at which yesterday's practice starts in today's opening contest in the annual Four Hills series.

ICE HOCKEY Fera equals record in Racers' spree

As the Heineken League approaches half-way, Murrayfield Racers continue to dominate the premier division and more emphatically against Solihull Barons on Saturday and at home to Whitley on Sunday.

AMERICAN FOOTBALL Redskins kicked out of hock

The coach of a National Football League club recently called Eric Dickerson "a touch-down waiting to happen." On Sunday, Dickerson more closely resembled a disaster waiting to happen - and the wait was not long.

POOLS FORECAST by Paul Newman

Table with columns for First Division, Second Division, Third Division, and Scottish Premier, listing various football clubs and their predicted performance.

TODAY'S FIXTURES... FOOTBALL... CENTRAL LEAGUE: First division: Black-Hull (6.45); Midland: Swindon (7.00); Manchester City v Bolton (7.45).

TODAY'S FIXTURES

7.30 unless stated... FOOTBALL... CENTRAL LEAGUE: First division: Black-Hull (6.45); Midland: Swindon (7.00); Manchester City v Bolton (7.45).

OTHER SPORT

HOCKEY: Women's territorial tournament (at Stourmead School, Dorset, 9.30pm); SOULIHL RACERS: Watlingtones (Sunday) v Solihull Barons (open tournament) (Connaught Club).

Law Report December 30 1986

Pending trial in libel action not sufficient to postpone statement in court

Barnet v Crozier and Another... LORD JUSTICE RALPH GIBSON said that the plaintiff had helped to form the Institute of Policy Studies (IPS) in Washington in 1963 and was a co-director.

Under the terms of the settlement The Spectator would join in making a statement in open court... It was a grievous burden to be used in a defamation action even if one won in the end.

of all the parties, it was right and just to do so... Although a party had no right to make a statement in open court upon which he could insist if the circumstances were such that the judge could not in his discretion approve that course.

RUGBY UNION

Mixed fortunes as England selectors are kept waiting

By David Hands, Rugby Correspondent

It is the time of year when players, particularly those with international aspirations, start feeling those twinges which suggest that trial matches may not be such a good idea. Scotland's trial sides for Murrayfield this Saturday will be announced this morning, while England's selectors will await a series of casualty reports during the week to see whether their chosen XV for Twickenham the same day remain intact.

Risk of injury depletes Bath

Bath's 11 players in the England trial have pulled out of their club's visit to Cardiff on New Year's Day. The Cardiff match takes place just 48 hours before the trial and the Bath players, headed by their captain, Richard Hill, have decided not to risk injury. Their team secretary, David Lamb said yesterday: "We can fully understand them putting their country first and we have not put any pressure on them."

played for Swansea on Saturday, Nigel Redman, however, is on tenterhooks, wondering whether his bruised knee ligaments will permit him to play. Redman missed Bath's narrow win over Northampton, as did Simon Halliday, who withdrew with a bruised shoulder but should be able to take his place at centre for the England XV. Should Redman miss the trial, Colclough will presumably be promoted to the senior side and David Cusack is likely to come in. The other replacement lock, Neil Mantell, has withdrawn as has John Goodwin, the Moseley wing, who was also among the travelling replacements.

Welsh cup seeding row is over

The year-and-a-half-long row over clubs' seeding in the Schweppes Cup between the 15 Whitebread and the Welsh Rugby Union is over. Ray Williams, secretary of the WRU, said in Cardiff yesterday: "After discussions with representatives of the merit table clubs on the future structure of the Schweppes Cup competition, a new formula related to seeded clubs and exempted clubs has been agreed. There are some details to be clarified."

TENNIS

ATP still searching for perfect head director

By Rex Bellamy, Tennis Correspondent

The Association of Tennis Professionals, the men's tennis "players' union", who have been without an executive director since August, are unlikely to appoint a successor to Mike Davies until the end of February at the earliest. The next meeting of the ATP board of directors will be held during the Lipton International Players Championships in Miami, from February 23 to March 8. The ATP has had four executive directors: Jack Kramer from 1972-75, Bob Briner from 1975-80, Butch Buchholz from 1980-82 and Davies from 1983 to last August, when his contract was terminated. Since then the acting executive director has been Ron Bookman, Davies's former deputy. Bookman said yesterday that the experienced head-hunting firm employed by the ATP to find the man most likely to meet their strict requirements was collecting and collating information on applicants for the job

Clinics with a difference for the Rugby Union hopefuls Big names bring the youngsters into line

Of all the sports affected by the changing attitudes in society towards school sport, Rugby Union is one of the most vulnerable. Many believe that as a consequence the whole future of the game is in the balance. Within rugby, there are differing views of how the problem should be tackled. PAUL MARTIN describes a new scheme to send well-known players and personalities to coaching clinics for schoolboys, while DAVID HANDS, our Rugby Correspondent, hears the case for the rugby authorities to play a more dynamic role in developing the game in the north, where the progress of Rugby League is posing a particular threat.



Showing the way: Andy Ripley puts young players through their paces at David Barclay's clinic in Sevenoaks, Kent

David Barclay hardly looks like the Quixotic character Cervantes created, but he is not a man who shies away from tilting at windmills. First, he helped bring out the Hedgehogs, then he hosted the two Springboks who are embroiled in controversy over their inclusion in the Rosslyn Park team against Wasps. But these are sideshows in comparison with his latest project. Proclaiming it "a big rescue for rugby," the Rosslyn Park coach has launched a scheme that has as its ambitions object the reinvigoration of rugby among the country's youth. His first "international rugby clinic," held at Sevenoaks, Kent, on Sunday, offered a blitzing style of coaching - modelled on those in South Africa - by some big names in the game.

While Andy Ripley handled some of the forwards, teaching them how to break, burst and turn for the man, Alistair McHarg, the London Scottish coach and Scotland lock, was drilling them in the skills of lineout play and scrummaging. Garth Wright, the Springbok scrum-half was teaching Timothy Clark, aged 11, and another budding half-back, the art of torpedo and dives, and how to pick a ball off the ground. His fellow-Springbok, Anton Barnard, was showing front-row forwards how to bind and shove, keeping backs straight and binding within the complex rules that are a mystery to most schools' coaches. A fierce competitive spirit was also being instilled for the matches that were to follow: "Are we going to win?" Barnard roared. "Yeh, yeh, yeh," they roared back with clenched fist salutes.

The children all enthused without prompting, mainly explaining that they had known most of the rules and techniques they had just been taught. Most said they had been induced to come because they would be under the wings of famous people. "I like it," James, aged 12, said. "It keeps us off the streets and you get to see the internationals." Steven Sales, also 12, added: "It's something to get you away from your relatives."

"I didn't realise it would be such good fun," exclaimed Andy Ripley as, like a lollipop Pied Piper, he led a troop of panting, sweating, chattering, exhilarated boys off the field for a calorific snack of lunchtime chocolate bars and orangeade. And Dick Best, the Harlequins coach, was equally ebullient. "There's tremendous enthusiasm. The beauty is you can see the improvements immediately when you are dealing with kids not adults."

Neither Ripley nor Best had ever coached children before - indeed Ripley maintains no-one has ever asked him to. And that in itself is an indictment of a system which, according to many of those present, has failed to garner the talents of ex-internationals to the service of a game they love. "I admit I am too lazy and full of inertia to organise something myself," Ripley said, "but now someone's got me in on the act, I intend to go down to my local club, East Grinstead, and do a bit of coaching with the youngsters."

Not even Barclay is rash enough to suggest that such clinics will reverse the tide that is flowing against rugby in schools. But, he maintains, drastic action is vital. And mini-rugby, played on small fields with small scrums, is not a panacea. "What we have tried to do," said George Crawford, a leading referee and Surrey executive committee member, "is to give them some taste of real rugby and the 'professional' approach to playing and coaching it. We hope it will inspire them, their parents and their local coaches to follow up."

Crawford, who has refereed numerous schools matches this year, says he fears parents are withdrawing their children from the sport because of its image of violence as portrayed on television and in the media. The "yawning gap" between mini-rugby and the teams for 18-year-olds was stressed by Peter Hunt, the Sevenoaks administrator. "Up till 12 years they are terribly keen and enthusiastic," he said. "But when they leave mini-rugby we lose a good half of them. Many go to schools where rugby is not offered, and at some schools rugby is dying out. Teachers are not available to coach them any more."

Time for entrepreneurs to halt slide in appeal

By David Hands

It was a coincidence that, earlier this month, two north westerners should voice essentially the same plea on the same day regarding the development of rugby union: the first was John Dewhurst, secretary of the Lancashire Schools Rugby Union, the second Brian Riley, a Liverpool referee who gave an outstanding speech at the annual dinner of the London Referees' Society.

The amount of work devolving upon clubs has increased dramatically anyway with the decline of rugby coaching in schools. But not all clubs are sufficiently well-blessed with either facilities or expertise, the expertise necessary to teach the game to boys as opposed to coaching young men.

At the same time, clubs are enthusiastically entering a league structure which will place greater demands upon their financial resources in travelling and preparation of their lower sides. All the while rugby union administrators in the north are uncomfortably aware of the straits being made by the British Amateur Rugby League Association (BARLA) whose development office in Manchester does a wonderful job for their game. In some ways it is a game for the 1980s, in the same way that fast-food businesses have developed during the same time.

It offers instant action as opposed to the more deliberate build-up of rugby union which offers attractions of a broader nature and accommodates greater physical differences. BARLA have taken their game into schools, using in some instances teachers who may have taken early retirement, but who only need a video and a handbook to visit schools as a lecturer. There is no reason for rugby union not to do the same, if only there is an organizing agency to prepare such people and pay them for their time.

The Sports Council's Digest of Sports Statistics for the UK says that in recent years the "popularity of rugby league has seen a healthy increase after the static position of the 1960s and 1970s when there were only 30 clubs. The number of amateur clubs more than doubled in the decade from 1972/3 (150) to 1982/3 (405) with a total membership of 21,700 players. In 1983 BARLA estimated the rate of growth at about 100 teams each year."

Hence the reason for rugby union to improve its shop window, in the way that the technical administrators in the four divisions have been trying to do. But because there are only four of them covering large areas they can only hope to scratch the surface; too much of their time is taken by travelling on motorways. There is no doubt that constituent bodies all over England, and in the other home countries, are aware of the problem. The Scottish Rugby Union estimate that the game is played regularly by 5,500 schoolboys aged between 12 and 18, as opposed to previous estimates of 15,000, which the union rightly describe as a "critical problem."

The core of their comments, considering the constant opposition provided in the north by amateur rugby league, was that rugby union must sell itself if it is to survive the challenge not only of rugby league, but American Football. They were echoing a comment made by the Rugby Football Union seven years ago, that "a professional business approach is needed if we are to preserve the essentially amateur playing nature of the game."

That approach received a higher profile this month when the RFU organized a conference for physical education advisers and gave an indication that the union was aware of changing scholastic and social structures. The RFU also tacitly admitted the fragmented nature of their efforts to develop the game throughout the country. That is the point that Mr Dewhurst, a first-class player with Loughborough College and Fyde, who has run rugby at Rossall School for the last 10 years, takes up. Rugby union in Lancashire has contracted at schools level over the last few years for a variety of reasons: the teachers' industrial action has thrust the load back on the shoulders of the independent schools; the withdrawal of local authority grants; declining interest among boys themselves.

The vacuum created, he argues, has to be filled by rugby's own efforts. "I have been pushing for a central office for the Lancashire area where you have a shop window for the development of the game, run by paid staff, entrepreneurs but sympathetic to the game, a secretary who can collate matters, correspond with clubs, referees, fixture banks, coaching courses, handle the minutes of meetings at schools, clubs and club level. "In that way you take away your diligent, hard-working people in their own little vacuum and bring things together. The game has survived so far on small bodies of absolutely devoted people who approach things in an amateur way. But the game is going professional with a small 'p' and that approach will not suffice much longer."

"I don't imagine the RFU could fund this so we come back to a sponsor, say, a computer company whose equipment would be used in the office - and who, possibly, might be attracted by the thought of similar offices being established in other parts of the country - and affiliation fees of, say, £100 from each club. The clubs would grumble, but a great deal of work would be taken out of their hands because a computerized central office would handle much of the week-to-week running of the game in their area."

Grants for further education courses will mean that rugby players, not necessarily schoolmasters, will receive remuneration for part or full-time services and schools of sport will be an established part of the scene. "Nobody at the conference objected in principle to teachers being paid for coaching the game out of school). Such reports confirm the RFU's awareness of the enormity of the problem and there have been preliminary discussions with the Sports Council about the funding of extra staff. The eternal problems remain time and resources spread among 27 constituent bodies, a number which breaks down the limited financial help which the RFU's youth development trust fund has available.

But the final point from the RFSU conference was: "The whole pattern of the introduction of the game to young players is likely to undergo drastic changes in coming decades and maybe within five years." Rugby union, at central and local level, probably will learn to cope with those changes.



Out for Africa: Ari Vatanen (left), the Finnish rally driver, and his Italian rival, Andrea Zanussi, (right), preparing for the Paris-to-Dakar rally, which starts on January 1

RUGBY LEAGUE

Rule book trips up Bishop's hopes By Keith Macklin Paul Bishop, the Warrington scrum half, has suffered a blow to his hopes of playing in the John Player Special Trophy final against Wigan at Burnden Park a week on Saturday. He learned yesterday that a Rugby League by-law prevented players appearing before disciplinary committees until three clear days had elapsed between the sending-off offence and the committee meeting. Bishop was sent off in the semi-final against Widnes on Saturday and the first disciplinary meeting is today. As a result, Bishop's case will not be heard until January 8, two days before the final and a one-match suspension will be enough to keep the player out of the final. "This is a cruel blow for Bishop," the Warrington coach, Tony Barrow, said. "If he had been suspended for two games or less at the Tuesday meeting, he would have been free for the final. If he is banned I shall play Steve Peters."

FOR THE RECORD: ATHLETICS, BASKETBALL, TENNIS, SNOW REPORTS, RUGBY UNION, BOBSLEIGHING, ICE HOCKEY, WALSLEY CONFERENCE, RUGBY UNION CLUB MATCHES, TENNIS CLUBS, SNOW REPORTS. Includes various sports results and news snippets.

TELEVISION AND RADIO

Edited by Peter Dear and Peter Davalle

The Battle of Rose Cottage

Tonight, we get a reply to the rhetorical question Whose House Is It Anyway? (BBC2, 5.15pm) that has been tucked away in my subconscious...

CHOICE

Review of the Year (ITV, 11.00pm) in which, not surprisingly, the siege of The Times at Wapping rates a mention...

on BBC TV, what with Brief Encounter (BBC2, 5.50pm) about which I refuse to listen to anything even remotely dismissive...



Billy and Gordon Howard, the fighting brothers in Whose House Is It Anyway? (BBC2, 5.15pm)



Jubilant Mr Toad at the finishing post: a new series of The Wind in the Willows begins today (on ITV, 4.28pm)

- BBC1
6.30 Ceefax AM.
7.00 News, regional news and weather.
7.15 The Flintstones. (r) 7.40 The Pink Panther Show...

- BBC2
8.00 Ceefax.
10.40 Harold Lloyd. Excerpts from the comedian's Millionaire, and the 1925-made, The Freshman.
11.00 About Us documentary about the Great Hawaiian Canoe Race...

- ITV LONDON
8.15 TV-am Good Morning Britain presented by Jayne Irving and Richard Keys.
9.00 News at Ten...

- CHANNEL 4
12.00 Women's and Seniors' Golf from the NCR Country Club, Kettering, Ohio.
1.00 Highlights of the 1986 Tour de France...

- VARIATIONS
BBC1 WALES 6.30pm-7.00pm Wales Today.
SCOTLAND 6.30pm-7.00pm Reporting Scotland...



Vicky Marlock (left) and Zoe Nathenson on ITV, 4.45pm

Clare Sutcliffe and (right) Anne Kirkbride in Another Sunday and Sweet FA (CA, 10.00pm)

Paula Wilcox and Richard Beckinsale in The Lovers, repeated on Channel 4 tonight at 9.00pm



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News on the half-hour from 6.30am to 6.55pm...

Radio 2
Mf (medium wave). Stereo on VHF (see below).
Headlines 5.30am, 5.30, 7.30, 8.30.
Cricket: Fourth Test, Australia v England...

WORLD SERVICE
6.00 Newsweek (until 6.30) 7.00 News 7.15
7.30 News 7.45 My Country in the World...

Radio 3
6.55 On VHF only. Weather.
7.00 News.
7.05 Concert: Mariam Ines, Libra Vermel de Monserrat...

Radio 4
On long wave. (a) Stereo on VHF 6.55 Shipping. 6.55 News. 6.10 Farming. 6.25 Morning Prayer (a). 6.57 Weather Today...

FREQUENCIES: Radio 1: 1053kHz/285m; 1089kHz/275m; Radio 2: 693kHz/433m; 909kHz/330m; Radio 3: 1215kHz/247m; VHF-90-92.5; Radio 4: 200kHz/1500m; VHF-92.95; LBC: 1152kHz/261m; VHF 97.3; Capital: 1548kHz/194m; VHF95.8; BBC Radio London: 1458kHz/200m; VHF 94.9; World Service: LBC 648kHz/463m.

SPORT

Amid Australia's agony, one-day cricket grinds on

From John Woodcock, Cricket Correspondent, Melbourne

While yesterday was a time for relaxation and rejoicing in the England camp, the Australian team returned to the scene of their crushing defeat on Sunday, to try, in their manager's words, "to remedy what we are doing wrong". The warning issued by the Consumer Affairs Minister in the Victorian State Government concerning "the danger from flying corks from champagne bottles" was more likely to affect Gattings' side than Border's.

"It is a time for shame and a time for change," comforted a leader in the Melbourne Herald on Australia's performance. "The first thing to be said is that wholesale, indiscriminate and messy slaughter is not the long-term solution." Richie Benaud wrote. "The less said about the cricket the better," was the Australian Prime Minister's contribution.

No one, meanwhile, keeps a lower profile in Australian cricketing circles than Kerry Packer and that is not surprising. To use an Australian expression, it was Mr Packer's hijacking of the game here that "rooted" it, first by splitting it down the middle when it was flourishing, and then, after coming to an accommodation with the Australian Board, by glorifying and commercializing the one-day game at an appalling cost to the traditional version.

The jamboree which begins in Perth today (one-day internationals, of course) is useful only as a timely reminder of the fierce demands being made on the players and the excesses that are being visited on the game. The West Indies and Pakistan are already there, just over a month after finishing a Test series in Pakistan. They meet today. The England and Australian teams will be herded some 2,000 miles across the continent this evening, driven like cattle before the whips.

More cricket page 23

They are going to Perth to oblige the marketing people, a Packer subsidiary, who have taken over the running of the Australian game and are using it to their own avaricious ends. The firm, PBL, have until 1989, when their contract expires, to reduce Test cricket in Australia to more of a relic than a dream.

Because their overworked and under-talented Test team are doing so badly, young Australia is becoming disenchanted with the more genuine side of the game. Australia's success in the Davis Cup, which coincided with defeat in the Test match on Sunday, is expected to prompt scores of eager recruits to turn from cricket to tennis. Playing cricket for the school is no longer, anyway, the height of a boy's ambition.

The ACB must know all this. Yet when England were here last, early in 1985, Border was already saying that he was sick and tired of one-day cricket. Australia at the time were playing 10 solid weeks of it. Today he faces another five,

with the last Test match sandwiched among them. Cricket is oow Border's treadmill. Since his first in 1978-79, he has played 137 one-day internationals, a laughable figure if it were not so crazy. By mid-February he could have played 152.

Not, for the moment, being masters in their own house, the Australian Board convey a sense of well-meaning impotence. They will be pleased, though, that their tour to West Indies in the spring of 1988 does not look like materialising. A final decision on this will be made at the Board meeting in Perth on January 6. The reason is said to be a clash of fixtures. If it were the Australian Board's reluctance to subject a young side to the ruthless intentions of the West Indian fast bowlers in their own conditions, it would be understandable. The point would be a fair one, which the West Indian Board would be wise to take. Whether England are about to be brought down to earth by the West Indians in Perth we shall know when the two sides meet on Saturday.

The Australian selectors, for their part, will be looking for a combination with which to start 1987 on a happier note. A change of captain, though unlikely, would, I think, be beneficial, not least to Border himself.

Australia's present dilemma is not dissimilar to that in 1970-71 when their cricket was also at a low ebb and England were here. For the last Test match then, corresponding to next week's in Sydney, Lawry was replaced as captain by Ian Chappell, a surprising and controversial decision at the time but one which was to lead to a successful era. Lawry had lost five and drawn four of Australia's previous nine Test matches. Owing to the loss of so many experienced players to South Africa, the situation oow is, if anything, more critical.

But who is there, as there was Ian Chappell in 1970-71, to revive Australia's fortunes? The likeliest to do so might be another South Australian in David Hookes, an inspirational player generally considered to be the best of the state captains. At 31 he is a good age for the job. He would seem to be the most imaginative selector. But the Australian selectors, one of whom is Ian Chappell's brother, Greg, are not currently renowned for their vision. They, too, caught some of yesterday's flak.



Wave at ruling the waves: Dennis Conner's victory salute after Stars and Stripes beat USA

Kiwi Artful Dodger on crash course with veteran Conner

From Barry Pickthall, Fremantle

The final for the America's Cup challenge trials starting in a fortnight, is shaping up to be a battle between Dennis Conner, the American master and Chris Dickson, from New Zealand, whose adolescent cockiness, aged 25, is surpassed only by the continuous winning ways of his 'plastic fantastic' New Zealand IV during this fourth-month series of races.

Both skippers won the second of their semi-final heats with consummate ease yesterday, Dickson, carrying the pre-start sparring against the French Kiss skipper Marc Pajot right into the spectator fleet to leave Gallic hopes wallowing in New Zealand's wake from the moment the gun fired.

Conner's start was less inspiring, with Stars and Stripes crossing the pin end of the line a second or so early. The uncharacteristic mistake cost this 12 metre veteran 18 seconds, but Tom Blackaller, his Californian rival, made an even graver error of starting at the unfavourable end of the badly biased line, allowing Conner and his crew to get back in contention.

The San Diego yacht all but clipped the stern of Blackaller's radical twin ruddered USA II and when the two came together once more, Conner, displaying much improved speed in these 10-15 knot winds was firmly in the driving seat. At the first weather mark, Conner's petrol blue hull held a 16sec lead. USA halved the gap on the following run, but with Conner protecting the inside berth at the leeward mark, he dictated the tactics on the next beat, picking up all the favourable shifts to extend his lead to a 1:08 margin.

Thereafter, the race, like that between New Zealand and French Kiss, proved to be a boring procession, with Stars and Stripes piling on the pressure on his hapless under-financed rival to finish a clear three minutes ahead.

The New Zealand win was less impressive, the 'plastic fantastic' taking 90sec longer to complete the 24.5-mile course than the San Diego flag bearer, but as Dickson pointed out afterwards to those wondering if some of the Kiwi magic had washed off, the French had forced the New Zealanders to put in 16 more tacks than the Americans performed.

DEFENDER TRIALS SERIES D

MONDAY: Kookaburra II vs Australia IV, Stars and Stripes vs Australia III at St. Helens, NZA, 2-5.

DEFENDER STANDINGS

Team	Won	Lost	Pts
Australia IV	24	9	50
Kookaburra II	20	13	52
Stars and Stripes	3	30	12
St. Helens	3	30	12

NOTE: Three points awarded for eyes following the retirement of Australia III (not included, first two to finish).

CHALLENGER SERIES SEMI-FINALS

MONDAY: Stars and Stripes vs USA, 3:02; New Zealand vs French Kiss, 2:40.

CHALLENGER STANDINGS

Best of seven races: New Zealand leads French Kiss, 2-0; Stars and Stripes leads USA, 2-0.

TODAY'S RACES

DEFENDER TRIALS SERIES D: Kookaburra II vs Kookaburra III; Australia IV vs Stars and Stripes.

CHALLENGER SERIES SEMI-FINALS

Stars and Stripes vs USA; New Zealand vs French Kiss.

Kookaburra II shortly after the five-minute gun. Kookaburra, steered by Peter Gilmour, which proved the easy winner on the course, was able to out-turn the Lexcen design before the start, then came out from under when both were on starboard tack to luff Australia IV hard into wind.

Gilmour had every right to push his rival up, but the question the jury must consider is whether Colin Beashel made every effort to avoid the collision. Harold Cudmore, the skipper of beaten White Crusader, now turned commentator on Channel 7TV suggested that the camera shot taken on board Kookaburra showed Beashel to have Australia's wheel hard over to starboard when the expensive clunk occurred, but then said wryly: "But, going before the race jury here in Fremantle is like going to the races".

Talking of backing losers, Syd Fischer, the Steak 'n' Kidney boss yesterday lost his protest against Kookaburra II on Sunday, and then suggested that Channel 7, who have fitted remote cameras on both Taskforce 12 metres, suppressed evidence that is not favourable to the Kookaburra team. The television station failed to provide footage of the incident that led to Steak 'n' Kidney's protest, but the Kookaburra syndicate are far from happy at Fischer's accusation.

Whatever the outcome of this particular slanging match, Steak 'n' Kidney's third loss yesterday in these final round robin trials, this time against Kookaburra III, must halt Fischer's claim that his boat is fastest among the defenders and should be allowed to compete for a place in the defenders' finals starting on January 14.

More yachting, page 25

Hollins says Hazard and Wicks can go

Jobo Hollins, the Chelsea manager, has told Steve Wicks and Mike Hazard that they can leave the first division club if the right offers come along. Both players asked for transfers 10 days ago.

Hollins paid Queen's Park Rangers £450,000 for Wicks, a central defender, during the summer but he has played only half a dozen first team games. Hazard, a midfield player, has made only three senior starts this season, his failure to win a place even during Chelsea's bleakest period proving a puzzle for Stamford Bridge supporters.

Since his £300,000 move from Tottenham Hotspur in September 1985, Hazard has made 22 League appearances. The Both have been out of the first team since Chelsea were crushed 4-0 at home by Wimbledon on December 6. Hollins said: "We haven't had any offers for either player yet." Chelsea ended a run of 10 games without a win at Southampton on Boxing Day and followed that with a 4-1 home triumph over Aston Villa to move off the bottom of the first division.

An age old problem run out for Stange of patience

By Chris Moore

Ron Saunders and Billy McNeill kicked any remaining Christmas spirit firmly into next week after warning their respective West Bromwich Albion and Aston Villa squads that matters must improve.

Saunders, clearly incensed at West Bromwich's inept showing in their last three second division games, which have yielded a solitary point, told his players that their day of reckoning was fast approaching. "At the moment my hands are still tied because of injuries so I cannot bark until I can bite," Saunders said, "but things are going to get a lot less comfortable around here just as soon as our injury problems are sorted out."

Derek Statham and George Reilly, neither of whom has kicked a ball in the first team this season, are likely to be the first to benefit as Saunders sharpens his act. Both had another run-out in last night's friendly with Telford United, who return to the Hawthorns in 11 days time for their controversial FA Cup third round tie with Leeds United.

McNeill, meanwhile, was still smarting yesterday from Saturday's 4-1 hiding at the hands of the then bottom club, Chelsea, which dragged Villa back into the relegation places. Their next engagement is a New Year's Day visit to Goodison Park where the Villa manager watched Everton bumble Leicester City 5-1 on Sunday.

The same thing could happen to us unless there is an all-round improvement on Thursday," McNeill said. "Villa's £350,000 summer signing, Neal Cooper, who has been plagued by a groin injury since his arrival from Aberdeen, could make his long-delayed debut."

Peter Reid will not be fit to return for Everton. Reid, who earlier this month made a 20-minute appearance as substitute against Wimbledon, suffered a thigh strain in that match which is still troubling him.

Stange suggests the players lack the pressure that force professionals in the West to keep going and earn as much money as possible.

Imran is facing a fight for fitness

Perth (Reuters) - Imran Khan, the Pakistan captain, is doubtful for today's opening encounter against the West Indies in the one-day tournament being played here until January 7.

The brilliant all-rounder has an injured left thigh and bowled at only quarter pace in the nets yesterday, saying that if he played he would bowl at medium pace or not at all.

England and Australia are also competing in the seven-match competition which is part of a sporting festival surrounding yachting's America's Cup.

The doubt over Imran means Pakistan may go into their toughest match without their two leading bowlers. Abdul Qadir, the leg-spinner and scone of the West Indian batsmen during the recent drawn Test series in Pakistan, is definitely ruled out with a chipped knuckle in his left hand.

Despite that, Imran is not too downhearted, claiming that his two all-rounders, Wasim Akram and Mansoor Elahi, would thrill the Perth crowds. Wasim, he said, is the best player in the world at his age, while for sheer power Mansoor rivaled Ian Botham.

For their part the West Indies' only problems surround a decision on which of their six fast bowlers to leave out and whether or not to use Roger Harper, the off-spinner.

WEST INDIES (captain): V Richards (capt), O Haynes, G Greenidge, R Richardson, L Gomes, G Logie, J Dujon, R Harper, M Marshall, M Holding, W Benjamin, J Garner, C Walcott, T Gray. PAKISTAN (capt): I Khan (capt), J Afridi, R Inis, S Mahmood, M Nazir, O Amir, M Asif, E Ahmed, A Huzefa, S Younis, W Akram, S Jaffer, Z Khan, T Ahmed.

Mill Hill's offer lures Lock

By Paul Martin

Tony Lock, at the age of 57 still, arguably, the world's greatest living exponent of the spinner's art, has been enticed back to England from his hillside retreat in the sweetly named Darting Ranges in Western Australia. He has accepted a professional coaching engagement at Mill Hill School, north London, from next spring until the end of the summer.

"Offer accepted," was Lock's typically terse reply to an inquiry from the independent school's master-in-charge of cricket, Roger Denning, who met Lock while on a teacher exchange programme in Perth. "We're thrilled to have got a great man of cricket, who has proved he is a brilliant coach," Denning enthused. "He will certainly put some steel into the lads," he added.

Though Lock captured 2,844 wickets for England, Surrey, Leicestershire and Western Australia, where he spent his last eight playing years, the left-arm spinner had been overshadowed by his England partner, Jim Laker.

With his reputation as an irascible yet scrupulously fair man, Lock is sure to be a tough taskmaster for the budding cricketers in his charge. He ruled Western Australia authoritatively, dragging them up from their also-ran status to great heights by the force of his personality: he even administered a tongue-lashing to the young Dennis Lillee.

Mill Hill had also approached other former top cricketers in Australia and South Africa.

RACING

The Aga Khan to send 15 horses to Cumani

Luca Cumani, who trained a personal best number of 67 winners last season, received another boost yesterday when it was announced that he will train for the Aga Khan in 1987.

The Aga Khan will be sending Cumani 15 two-year-olds in the New Year with the rest of his string, expected to be about 80-strong, going to Michael Stone and Folke Johnson Houghton, who have trained for him since 1978.

Italian-born Cumani spent two years as assistant to Henry Cecil before setting up in 1976 at Bedford House stables in Newmarket. Since then he has increased his total of winners almost annually. His biggest success came with Comanche Run in the 1984 St Leger.

The Aga Khan's famous colours of green with red epaulettes have been carried to victory in two of the last six Epsom Derbys, by Shergar (1981) and Shahrazadani (1986). He also won the French Derby in 1984 with Darshaan and in 1985 with Moukhtar.

The Aga's decision to retain a third trainer in Britain is in line with his policy of increasing the number of his horses in this country. But he will still have about 100 horses based at his French training centre at Aiglemont.

Cumani said: "Obviously, it's very good news. I was told at the Newmarket December Sales and am delighted."

Of the horses who gave him success last season, Cumani confirmed that St Leger runner-up, Celestial Storm, and Then Again will stay in training. "I'm not totally sure about my Guinness horse at the moment but Imperial Frontier is looking the most likely at present," he said.

Racing, page 24

Meade to retire

Richard Meade, Britain's three-time Olympic eventing gold medalist, is to retire from competitive riding. The 48-year-old Englishman has decided to quit after 25 years at the top, following the retirement of his leading horse, Kilcashel, which he rode in Britain's gold medal winning team at the 1982 World Championships.

He rode in four Olympics, scoring a double triumph in 1972, when he took the individual title and piloted Britain to the team victory on Laurieston, and collected a team gold at the previous Games on Cornishman.

Silver lining

A Rolls-Royce Silver Spirit worth £69,000 is on offer to the scorer of the first 147 maximum break in the new Rothmans Matchroom snooker league being contested around Britain from January to May. The league gets under way on January 17, when Steve Davis, Dennis Taylor, Willie Thorne and Terry Griffiths compete in the first two matches, at the Torbay Leisure Centre. By May 17, 28 matches will have been played at 14 venues to decide the first league champion.

Atkins returns at Worcester

The former jump jockey Ron Atkins returns to the saddle at Worcester today when he partners It's A Laugh in the Celebration Selling Hurdle.

Since he retired 18 months ago, Atkins has worked as a jockeys' safety officer and trainer, and has also opened a restaurant called "Chasers" in Devon.

SPORT IN BRIEF

Close call

England, who had beaten Turkey only once in seven previous basketball meetings, lost again, by 78-77, in their opening match of the Pohjola tournament in Helsinki. After trailing 45-33 at the interval, England recovered well, but despite 22 points apiece from Mick Bett and Clyde Vaughan, Turkey held out.

Playing safe

Winds gusting at speeds of more than 60mph and heavy sleet prevented ski jumping yesterday at a World Cup nordic combination event at Oberwesenthal, East Germany, forcing the event to be rescheduled for today.

Second place

Gary Lineker, the England and Barcelona forward, has come second in a poll among European sports journalists to find the European footballer of the year. The Golden Ball award, conducted by the weekly France Football magazine, went to the Soviet Union's Igor Belanov.

Top man

Philippe Sella, the Agen and French international centre, has been named rugby union's player of 1986 by the French weekly newspaper Midi Olympique. He succeeds the Argentine stand-off Hugo Porta.

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